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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report highlights state and countywide findings on key indicators affecting the educational and life success of Ohio's children. The statistical portrait is based on five indicators: (1) fourth graders' performance on the Ohio fourth grade reading proficiency test; (2) number of children receiving child care assistance or participating in Head Start programs; (3) children's health status; (4) participation in programs that alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency; and (5) family movement from welfare to work. Findings indicated that 68 percent of the fourth graders taking the reading proficiency test in 1998 passed; under new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47 percent would have passed. More than $27 million was available in fiscal year 1999 for child care assistance, with a monthly participation of 62,618 children. Head Start participation was 57,150 children in 1998. About 40 percent of Ohio infants born in 1997 had at least one risk factor. In 1997 almost 8 percent of infants were born at low birthweight. The number of children enrolled in Medicaid in December, 1998 was 560,731 and was expected to increase by approximately 104,000. Over 670,000 Ohio families received the federal Earned Income Credit in 1997. Thirty-four percent of families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 21 percent in 1990. Ohio public assistance caseloads dropped by 46 percent from September 1995 to September 1998. However, more than 26,077 Ohio adults may use up their time limit by October, 2000. The report concludes with data definitions, data sources, and calculations. (KB

For **Children** For Ohio's Future

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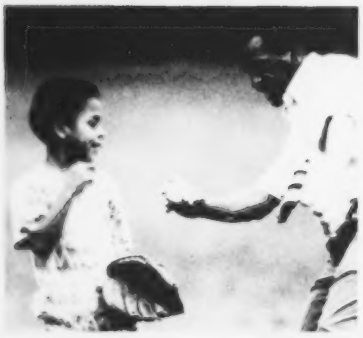

Helping Children Learn 1999-2000

A COUNTY-BY-COUNTY FACTBOOK

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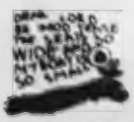

Children's Defense Fund – Ohio

About Children's Defense Fund

Children's Defense Fund (CDF) was founded in 1973 by Marian Wright Edelman to provide a strong and effective voice for the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. Our goal is to educate the nation about the needs of children and encourage preventive investment in children before they get sick, drop out of school, or get into trouble.

CDF is a unique organization because it focuses on programs and policies that affect large numbers of children, rather than on helping families on a case-by-case basis. CDF educates the public about the conditions of children and successful programs. We work to shape federal, state, and local policies for children by identifying cost-effective remedies.

Our main office is in Washington, D.C. CDF-Ohio began its work in Columbus in 1981 and is the oldest CDF-state office. Ohio leads the country in grassroots support for CDF's local work through its Greater Cincinnati and Greater Columbus projects. CDF also maintains offices in California, New York, Minnesota, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

CDF is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, research and advocacy organization supported by foundations, corporate grants, and individual donations. As an independent voice for children, CDF does not accept government funds.

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kids count

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For **Children** For Ohio's Future

Helping Children Learn
A COUNTY-BY-COUNTY FACTBOOK

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Marian Wright Edelman and the CDF Board join me in thanking these dedicated professionals.

Mark Real

Introduction

Helping Children Learn: A County-by-County Factbook

Helping Children Learn highlights key indicators that affect the educational and life success of nearly three million Ohio children. Review these pages to better understand how education and family economics can shape children's lives and futures.

Consider the following:

- Only 47% of fourth graders tested would have passed Ohio's tougher 1999 fourth grade reading test. Students in high-poverty districts experienced the greatest difficulties in meeting reading standards.
- Children remain the poorest group of Ohioans, despite the fact that the number of children depending on public assistance fell by 43% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. The majority of Ohio's poor children live in families where the head of the household works.
- National research confirms that high-quality preschool programs improve language ability and pre-math skills.

Educational skills—especially the ability to read—lay the foundation for every child's progress. But while our public schools are responsible for teaching those skills, educational achievement is not as simple as "if we teach it, they will learn it."

Many of the students who struggle to learn today live in poverty. Their lives are marked by instability in housing, lack of regular, nutritious food, inadequate health care and too little adult supervision after school. These factors, in turn, affect whether they attend school regularly, whether they stay with the same teacher throughout a school year, how they interact with peers, and ultimately, how well they learn core academic skills.

Health clearly plays a role in education. Both delayed prenatal care and low birthweight can increase the likelihood of a child experiencing learning disabilities and subsequently requiring special education services. Comprehensive health services such as immunizations, school physicals, and hearing, vision, and dental screening help keep children healthy and able to learn.

Ohio's bipartisan effort to improve children's lives recognizes and responds to the relationship between child poverty and school performance. Our state understands that investments in targeted, cost-effective health care and early childhood programs can improve child health and safety, promote stable and productive families, and help children achieve their academic potential.

Using the Factbook

In the following pages we profile each Ohio county's children using information on educational achievement and economic status.

Education

- *The performance of fourth graders on Ohio's fourth grade reading proficiency test*, measured by both 1998 and 1999 standards, along with the rate of free or reduced-priced lunches served to eligible children in the largest public school districts in each county.
- *The number of children who receive child care assistance or participate in Head Start programs that can help them develop pre-reading skills.* Both child care assistance and Head Start now serve more children from low- and modest-income working families. Between 1995 and 1998, child care participation grew by 50%, while Head Start experienced 17% growth.

Family Economics

- *Child health status* featuring a profile of Ohio newborns, including the fact that 40% of Ohio newborns are at risk of childhood poverty and difficulties at school, and information on the 133,000 children in working families potentially eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- *Participation in programs that alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency*, such as the one million youngsters eligible for child support, and facts about the nation's most successful public antipoverty program, the federal Earned Income Credit, which benefits more than one million Ohio youngsters.
- *A portrait of Ohio's welfare-to-work program*, which shows a threefold increase in the number of adults with paychecks and reports that parents remaining on welfare are less likely to have a high school diploma than those who have left.

Thanks to strong bipartisan efforts over the last two decades, Ohio has made great strides for children. We are one of eight states recognized as a national leader for children by Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty. We extend health and child care to more low- and modest-income working families than ever before. And we lead the nation in offering Head Start and collecting child support through wage withholding.

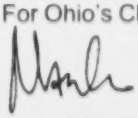
We also find ourselves with a historic opportunity to change the future for our children. Due to sweeping changes in how welfare, health, and child care programs are administered and the pending Ohio Supreme Court case challenging us to improve public education, our state government has more authority than ever before to improve children's lives.

CDF-Ohio has provided reports on the status of children since 1981. We strive to provide information that assists communities and our state in identifying and responding to specific challenges.

The same information detailed on these pages also can be found on CDF-Ohio's web site (http://www.cdfohio.org). Visitors to our web site also can download our reports and 1998 county fact sheets on child care and teen births, as well as our most recent policy recommendations report, *Windows of Opportunity: Ohio Children and the 1998 Election*.

We hope Ohio leaders will use this factbook to structure an informed debate about how to improve the lives and educational opportunities of our children.

For Ohio's Children,



Mark Real, Director
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio

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Education

Ohio's Fourth Grade Reading Guarantee

Sixty-eight percent of the 125,823 fourth graders who took Ohio's fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test.[1] Under new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed.[2] This means that 53%, or 66,096 students,[3] would require the reading intervention that Ohio law requires school districts to provide to students who do not pass the test.

Thirty-six percent of those who took the test, or approximately 45,000 students, were close to passing, according to research by the Ohio Department of Education.[4] These students might need some extra help in reading and could benefit from interventions such as summer school and tutoring. This same research shows that at least 21,000 students, or 17% of those who took the test, had very low scores,[5] so low that they likely would not be prepared to do fifth grade work and might need intensive intervention to succeed. These are the students who would most benefit from early reading intervention in preschool, kindergarten, and the early primary grades.

The 1998–1999 class of first graders will be the first class subject to Ohio's new "Fourth Grade Reading Guarantee."

How This Affects Ohio Children

The 1998–1999 class of first graders will be the first class subject to Ohio's new "Fourth Grade Reading Guarantee." When they reach the fourth grade, they will have three opportunities to pass the fourth grade reading proficiency test: once in the fall, a second time in the spring, and one final time during the summer before fifth grade. If a student does not pass by the third administration of the test, that child cannot move on to the fifth grade, unless the child's reading teacher and principal determine that he or she is capable of doing fifth grade work.

To prepare to meet this guarantee, Ohio's public school districts began during the 1999–2000 school year to assess students' reading abilities at the end of first, second and third grade. Districts will notify the parents of those students not reading at grade level and invite them to work with the child's classroom teacher to develop and implement a strategy to improve the child's reading skills. School districts must also offer intensive summer remediation to third graders not reading at grade level. Additionally, as of July 1, 2001, districts will be required to offer summer remediation to those fourth graders who do not pass the test by the end of the school year.

History

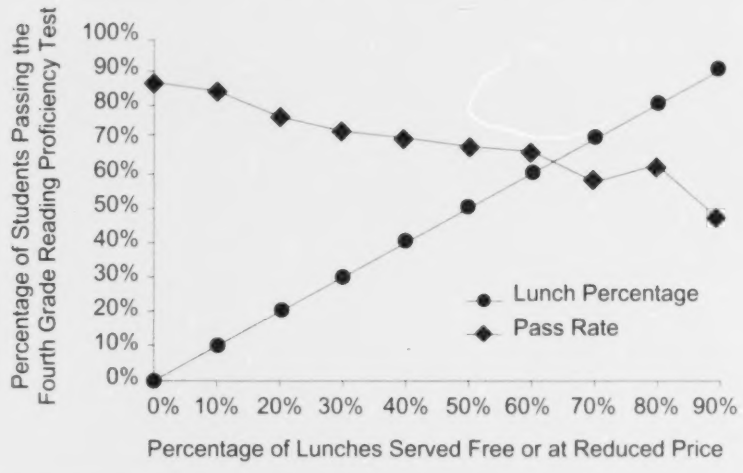
Ohio House Bill 55 established the Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency Test in 1992. The proficiency test's purpose was to identify students who were not proficient readers so they could receive reading intervention in the fifth grade. In 1997, Ohio Senate Bill 55 established new accountability standards for Ohio's schools, including the Fourth Grade Reading Guarantee. Each year since 1995, the score students have had to earn to be "proficient" has increased, with the final "proficient" standard in place for the 1999 test.

Proficiency and Poverty

A good measure of poverty within a district is the percentage of lunches it serves either free or at a reduced price as part of the federal school lunch program. Statewide, 47% of lunches served in Ohio's public school districts are either free or reduced price.[6] Children from families earning up to 130% of the federal poverty level ($14,378 for a family of two) may receive free school lunches; those children whose families earn up to 185% of the federal poverty level ($20,461 for a family of two) are eligible for reduced-price lunches. In general, districts with higher percentages of students receiving lunch aid tend to have lower percentages of children passing the test.

If the new, higher 1999 proficiency score were applied to the 1998 administration of the fourth grade reading test, only 47% of Ohio students would have passed, and no district in Ohio would have had a pass rate higher than 84%.

As Poverty Rates Increase, Pass Rates Decrease[a]



[a] Sources: proficiency test results, endnote 1; school lunch data, endnote 6. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Seventeen percent of Ohio's schoolchildren—309,928 students—attend one of eight large metropolitan urban school districts.[7] The "Big Eight" districts have significantly higher poverty rates and significantly lower pass percentages than the average Ohio school district.

Some Ohio school districts do not follow this trend. Not all high-poverty districts or schools have low pass rates for the fourth grade reading proficiency test. The challenge is to look closely at these districts and see what factors contribute to their better than expected results.

North Carolina and Texas Make Significant Proficiency Gains

Ohio can also look to North Carolina and Texas for examples of high-poverty districts that meet high academic expectations. These two states showed the largest average gains among states who participate in the National Assessment of Student Progress[8] (Ohio is one of 11 states that does not participate in this national proficiency test). Not only did students in North Carolina and Texas show improvement on the national proficiency test, they also showed similar rates of improvement on their respective state proficiency tests.

Poverty and Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency Test Pass Rates in Ohio's "Big Eight" Urban School Districts

District	Enrollment[a]	Free or Reduced-Price Lunches[b]	Pass Rate[c]
Akron	31,992	80%	48%
Canton	13,157	81%	59%
Cincinnati	48,956	82%	41%
Cleveland	73,530	94%	46%
Columbus	63,961	74%	46%
Dayton	25,946	75%	38%
Toledo	39,557	88%	43%
Youngstown	12,829	93%	37%
Average Ohio District	*2,974*	*34%*	*73%*

[a] Report Card Data. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.
[b] Child Nutrition Services. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.
[c] Ohio Department of Education. Ohio 4th Grade Proficiency Test Results, Proficiency Rates by Different Standards, 1998 Test Administration. Downloaded 8/17/98 http://ode000.ode.ohio.gov/www/ims/proficiency/4th_prof_mar98_standards.txt.

What makes Texas and North Carolina really shine is that these gains cut across racial and ethnic groups. In Texas, Hispanic and black students made larger gains than did non-Hispanic white students. North Carolina's black and non-Hispanic white students progressed at a similar rate, although the state's small group of Hispanic students made smaller gains.[9] Both North Carolina and Texas have higher rates of child poverty than Ohio, according to a report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.[10] Census data show that these two states also have higher poverty rates among the general population than Ohio.[11]

Conclusion

Ohio has much work to do to live up to the guarantee that every Ohio child will be able to read at grade level by the fourth grade. If the new, higher 1999 proficiency score had been applied to the 1998 administration of the fourth grade reading test, only 47% of Ohio students would have passed, and no district in Ohio would have had a pass rate higher than 84%.[12]

Early Care and Education: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

Child Care Assistance

Ohio's child care assistance program helps low- and modest-income parents work and afford child care. Without this assistance, these parents would face average child care costs of nearly $100 per week, or $5,200 per year, for one child.[13] The average annual cost of child care is comparable to the cost of tuition for four quarters at The Ohio State University, which during the 1998–1999 school year was $5,172.[14] Care for infants and toddlers is even more expensive.

In state fiscal year 1999, more than $277 million was available to help families purchase child care, to improve child care quality, and to administer the program.[15] The Ohio Department of Human Services provides child care assistance through 88 county departments of human services. In December, 1998, approximately 63,000 children participated.[16] Between 1995 and 1998 the average monthly participation grew from 41,852 to 62,618 children.[17]

Most Ohio youngsters receiving child care assistance have working parents who are not on welfare.

State Fiscal Year 1999 Child Care Funding	
Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant	$136.0 million
Federal Social Services Block Grant	15.0 million
Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant	49.9 million
State GRF Funds	76.4 million
Total	**$277.3 million***

*122nd General Assembly of Ohio. *Amended Substitute House Bill 215.*

How This Affects Ohio Children

Because child care costs can easily consume 25% of family income or more, Ohio's child care assistance program makes it possible for some low- and modest-wage-earning families to afford child care in licensed centers and certified family day care homes. These facilities at least meet minimal health and safety standards. Child care assistance helps families avoid relying on uninspected arrangements or, worse, leaving children home alone or in the care of older siblings.

History

Since 1974, Ohio has provided direct child care assistance through federal funding and, more recently, through additional state funding. In 1984, just over 14,000 children received child care assistance,[18] compared to 63,000 in 1998. Most Ohio youngsters receiving child care assistance have working parents who are not on welfare.[19]

In 1988, federal funds for child care began to increase. At the same time, state expenditures also increased as a result of state matching requirements. In 1996, federal child care programs were consolidated into the Child Care and Development Block Grant. A state matching requirement continues.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant exists to help low-income families find and afford quality child care and to enhance the quality and increase the supply of child care for all families.

How Child Care Assistance Works
While the Ohio Department of Human Services (ODHS) serves as the lead agency for child care assistance, county departments of human services administer child care assistance at the local level. In most Ohio counties, families must apply in person at a county department of human services office for child care assistance. All parents who receive help pay a portion of the cost based on their income and family size.

Who Is Eligible?
In 1998, the Ohio General Assembly established the maximum income for eligibility at 185% of the federal poverty level. Parents, including those receiving cash assistance, must work or participate in an education or training program. A parent with one child loses eligibility for child care aid once she earns $9.85 an hour (1999 poverty guidelines).

A small number of children also participate in cases of special need, such as protection from child abuse and neglect.

Where Is Child Care Provided?
Parents may have several options when selecting child care providers. Parents may choose from

- child care centers licensed by the Ohio Department of Human Services;
- programs licensed by the Ohio Department of Education;
- family day care homes certified by county departments of human services;
- relatives and friends; and
- some summer day camps.

Opportunities for Reading Readiness
If national patterns hold true in Ohio, more than one-half million Ohio children younger than age six are in some form of child care each day.[20] More than 200,000 children attend nearly 3,500 licensed child care centers, yet little has been done to improve the quality of these programs.[21] Ohio's 1985 child care licensing law established only minimal health and safety standards. Ohio law offers no protections for children in family day care homes unless child care assistance funding is used to help pay for care.

Children in high-quality programs have greater language ability and better pre-math skills.[22] High-quality programs better prepare children for school by developing brain circuitry that allows them to reach their full potential. [For more information on child care in Ohio, see CDF-Ohio's *Child Care: A County-by-County Factbook* (1998), available for download from our web site (http://www.cdfohio.org).]

Children in high-quality programs have greater language ability and better pre-math skills.

Head Start

Head Start serves preschool children from very low income families. Children ages three and four are eligible as long as family income does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty level ($11,060 annually, or $5.32/hour, for a parent with one child in 1999). Ohio leads the nation in state support for Head Start: more than 75% of eligible children are enrolled, compared with approximately 40% nationally.[23] Between 1995 and 1998, total enrollment grew from 48,956 to 57,159 children.[24] Nearly 22,000 of the children enrolled in 1998 were supported through state funding, up from only 2,171 children in 1990.

How This Affects Ohio Children

Unlike most other states, poor preschoolers in Ohio have the opportunity to attend Head Start at the same rate as their more affluent peers attend early education programs.[25] State funding has leveled the playing field for these children and targeted resources to the least served counties, giving eligible children nearly the same chance to attend regardless of where they live.

Head Start is enrolling more children from working poor families than ever before. At least one parent worked in 56% of Ohio Head Start families in 1997–1998.

History

The federal Head Start program began in 1965 as a part-day, summer program for poor children. Its goal was to improve social skills and help children prepare for their future, including elementary school. Over time the program has shifted to primarily a part-day, school-year schedule.

In 1989 the nation's governors and then-President Bush convened an education summit to define several national education goals. The first goal focused on school readiness for all children; one objective became to provide all disadvantaged and disabled children access to high-quality preschool programs. A key part of Ohio's response to the summit included expanding Head Start.

With bipartisan support, the first expansion of Head Start through state funding began in Ohio in 1990. Ohio is one of 12 states that provide direct funding to Head Start.[26] Nearly $100 million of Ohio's general revenue funding supported state Head Start enrollment in 1998–1999.[27]

How Head Start Works

Federal Head Start funding flows directly to local community-based agencies. Once established, these programs receive federal funding as long as they meet federal Head Start requirements. State Head Start funding is managed by the Ohio Department of Education.

Head Start provides a range of services including preschool education and health, dental, mental health and nutrition services. The program also links families with needed social services, offers specialized services for children with disabilities, and encourages parent involvement and training. Children may attend a center-based program that operates at least 16 hours per week. Many programs operate longer hours. Some children participate in a home-based model where teachers help parents to teach their children.

Parent involvement is a hallmark of Head Start. In addition to volunteer and training opportunities, all programs have a Policy Council made up of parents

and community representatives. The Council makes decisions about how the program operates and must be involved in the hiring and approval of new staff.

Head Start is available in all 88 Ohio counties. Programs are housed in community facilities, schools, religious institutions, office buildings, child care centers and family day care homes. Sites must meet building, health and safety, and licensure standards. Transportation is usually provided on Head Start buses.

Ohio Head Start Profile: 1997- 1998 School Year*

50% of enrolled children were white

46% of enrolled children were black

4% of enrolled children were Hispanic or other races

35% of Head Start families were headed by two parents

46% of Head Start families had annual incomes less than $6,000, less than half the federal poverty level for a family of three in 1998

56% of Head Start families had at least one working parent

*Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Region V, Chicago, Illinois. *1997–1998 Program Year PIR Data for Ohio*. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Once enrolled, children remain eligible until they reach compulsory school age. Head Start must reserve at least 10% of its enrollment spaces for children with disabilities. In addition, on the basis of locally identified needs or risk factors, some children may be enrolled even if family income exceeds 100% of poverty. These spaces are limited to no more than 10% of enrolled children.[28]

Ohio Is a Leader in Head Start/Child Care Partnerships

Head Start is enrolling more children from working poor families than ever before. At least one parent worked in 56% of Ohio Head Start families in 1997–1998.[29] As a result of this increase in working families, more than 6,000 children enrolled in Head Start now receive their Head Start services in either a child care center or family day care home.[30] This way, parents can work and their children can receive the full range of Head Start services in the child care setting.

Opportunities for Reading Readiness

The 1998 federal reauthorization of Head Start specifically added "school readiness" to Head Start's purpose and set new standards for language and literacy skills. Likewise, 50% of Head Start teachers must have at least an associate's degree by 2003.[31] Thirty-five percent of Ohio's Head Start teachers held degrees in early childhood education in 1997–1998.[32]

Family Economics

Health Status: Growing And Learning

Risk Factors in Ohio Births

In 1997, 40% of Ohio newborns had a teen mother, a mother without a high school diploma, or unmarried parents—all major barriers to overcome. Seventeen percent of these infants faced two of these barriers, while 7% faced all three. All of these children are at a higher risk of performing below average academically and of living in poverty during their childhood.

How This Affects Ohio Children
The incidence of poverty and poor academic performance increases with each subsequent factor. Not every baby with a teen mother, a mother without a high school diploma, or unmarried parents is destined to perform poorly academically or to live in poverty. Many resilient children and parents beat the odds. However, increasing the percentage of parents who are high school graduates and married adults will increase the likelihood that their children will succeed.

Births to unmarried parents increased from 28.9% of births in 1990 to 34.0%—51,400 babies—in 1997.

Births to Ohio Teen Parents Remain High
In 1997, 20,161 babies were born to Ohio teen mothers, compared with 23,003 born in 1990. The percentage of births to teen mothers (13.3%) has remained about the same since 1990 (13.8%).

These 20,161 babies and their young mothers stand a greater risk of poor outcomes such as health complications, low educational attainment, low earning potential, poverty, and reliance on public assistance.[33] Teens are less likely than adults to seek timely prenatal care and are more likely to have low birth weight babies. Eighty-four percent of Ohio teen mothers are not married when they give birth. [For more information on teen births in Ohio, see CDF-Ohio's *Teen Births: A County-by-County Factbook* (1998), available for download from our web site (http://www.cdfohio.org).]

Births to Mothers without a High School Diploma
More than one in six Ohio children (17.9%) were born to mothers without a high school diploma in 1997—an improvement over the 1990 rate of 19.4%, but still cause for concern.

A parent's educational achievement may affect their child's chances for success in school, and in life. Children whose parents have high school diplomas score better on reading achievement tests than youngsters whose parents do not have high school diplomas.[34] A child is half as likely to drop out of school if both parents are high school graduates.[35] Mothers with more education are more likely to read to their children daily, an indicator of the degree of preparedness for school. Seventy-seven percent of mothers with a

college degree report reading to their children daily, compared with 37% of mothers without a high school diploma.[36]

Births to Ohio Unmarried Parents Rising
Births to unmarried parents increased from 28.9% of births in 1990 to 34.0%—51,400 babies—in 1997. Teen births accounted for only one-third of all births to unmarried parents in 1997.

Married parents are legally bound to support their children to age 18. Paternity (identifying the father) must be established for children born to unmarried parents before a child support payment order can be issued. County child support enforcement agencies help unmarried custodial parents establish paternity and collect support for their children.

Child Health Indicators Mixed
Birth weight serves as one of the most important predictors of a child's subsequent health and survival. Low birth weight infants are six times more likely to die in the first year of life than those of normal birth weight. Low birth weight babies who do survive are at much greater risk of birth defects, learning disabilities, and developmental delays. In 1997, 7.7% of babies born to Ohio mothers (1 in 13) were of low birth weight (under 5.5 pounds), slightly worse than the 1990 rate of 7.1%.

In 1997, 40% of Ohio newborns had a teen mother, a mother without a high school diploma, or unmarried parents—all major barriers to overcome.

Over the same time period, the percentage of Ohio women receiving timely prenatal care increased. Fourteen percent of women who gave birth in Ohio in 1997 (1 in 7) did not begin prenatal care within the first 90 days of pregnancy, the recommended time period for starting prenatal care. This is an improvement over the 1990 rate, when 18.9% of pregnant women received late or no prenatal care.

When expectant mothers seek prenatal care in the first 90 days of their pregnancy, doctors and nurses can identify major maternal risk factors including smoking and drug and alcohol use, provide counseling on good nutrition, and prescribe prenatal vitamins. Early prenatal care improves the likelihood of a safe delivery and a healthy baby and reduces health care costs before and after delivery. Healthy babies are much less likely to require prolonged medical care and special services such as special education once they reach school age.

Children Insured by Medicaid

Nationally, over 11 million children lack health insurance.[37] Uninsured children are six times more likely to go without medical care, and five times more likely to use the hospital emergency room as a regular health care source than insured children. In Ohio, nearly 300,000 children at all income levels are uninsured.[38]

History
In 1997, Congress and President Clinton approved a major advance for children's health coverage. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides Ohio up to $115 million in federal funds annually to cover uninsured

children. A state match of $48 million is required to draw down all the federal funds.

Uninsured children with family incomes too high for Medicaid but too low to buy private coverage can be covered by CHIP, with a federal maximum income limit of 200% of poverty, or $22,120 annually for a family of two.

Healthy Start in Ohio

Ohio expanded Medicaid coverage for children in the state's 1998–1999 budget. This expansion, called Healthy Start, kicked off in January 1998, and uses CHIP/Medicaid dollars to cover Ohio children with incomes up to 150% of poverty, or $16,590, per year for a single parent with one child. Twenty-nine states already, or plan to, cover children at 200% of poverty or greater.[39]

Healthy Start benefits include immunizations, well-child checkups, school physicals, and hearing, vision, and dental screening—services children need to stay healthy and ready to learn.

Medicaid was selected as the vehicle for Healthy Start because it provides comprehensive, preventive coverage with benefits designed specifically for children. This array of benefits includes immunizations, well-child checkups, school physicals, and hearing, vision and dental screening—services children need to stay healthy and ready to learn.

Medicaid also is cost effective, with comprehensive benefits costing about $720 per year, per child, in Ohio (more for children with disabilities). The federal government pays 58% of Ohio's costs. In December, 1998, 560,700 Ohio children relied on Medicaid, down from 631,000 in July, 1995. Medicaid is not a welfare program. As of December, 1998, well over half of children on Medicaid did not receive cash assistance.[40]

Ohio was one of the first eight states to implement CHIP. Between January and December, 1998, over 85,000 Ohio children enrolled in the expansion. In December, 1998, 65,486 out of the original 85,000 new enrollees were still covered by Medicaid. Over 19,700 new enrollees had left the Medicaid program, due to failure to reapply after six months or increases in family income. However, many eligible children are not enrolled; by July, 1999, 133,000 eligible children are expected to enroll in the expansion.

Finally, Ohio plans to extend health insurance to uninsured children between 151% and 200% of poverty in January, 2000, as allowed by federal law. A task force appointed by former Governor Voinovich recommended this expansion in its final report issued July, 1998. Governor Taft included the task force's recommendations in his 1999–2000 budget to cover an estimated 27,000 uninsured children statewide, beginning January, 2000.

Earned Income Credits and Child Support: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credits

The federal earned income credit (EIC) provides a tax incentive to encourage families to work. It targets low- and moderate-income working families. State EICs usually piggyback as a percentage of the federal EIC.

Originally enacted in 1975 in the Tax Reform Act under President Ford to offset regressive social security, local, and state taxes and to supplement the earnings of low-wage workers, the federal EIC has received consistent bipartisan support through several expansions:

1987: Indexed for inflation under President Reagan

1990: Expanded under President Bush

1993: Expanded to include childless families with incomes less than $10,000 under President Clinton

Families find their EIC by looking at a table, similar to the Tax Table, in the tax instructions. The amount they receive depends upon their adjusted gross income and the number of children they have. Eligible taxpayers can elect to receive the credit during the year in their regular pay checks or can wait to claim a refund on their April 15 tax return the following year.

The federal earned income credit reaches more working families, and moves more of them out of poverty, than any other public program.

Federal Earned Income Credits, Tax Year 1998

Family Size	Maximum Credit	Income Range for Maximum Credit	Poverty Level (1998)
1 child	$2,271	$6,600-12,300	$10,850 (1 parent) $13,650 (2 parents)
2 children	$3,756	$9,300-12,300	$13,650 (1 parent) $16,450 (2 parents)
no children (adults aged 25-64)	$341	$4,400-5,600	$8,050 (individual) $10,850 (married couple)

How This Affects Ohio Children

The Federal EIC has been credited with lifting 4.6 million people in working families out of poverty, including 2.4 million children, thus reducing poverty among young children by nearly one-fourth. The federal EIC reaches more working families, and moves more of them out of poverty, than any other public program.

Studies have also credited the EIC with increasing work effort among single mothers. More than half of the substantial increase in employment within this

Increase in the Number of Ohio Families Benefiting from the Federal EIC over Time

	1990	1996[a]	1997
families receiving EIC	442,844	612,946	672,806
average credit	$565	$1,361	$1,449

[a] In 1996:
- 94% of money refunded went to families with incomes less than $20,000
- 75% of money refunded went to families with incomes less than $15,000

group from 1984 to 1996 was due to the incentive provided by the federal earned income credit.

Refundable vs. Non-Refundable Tax Credits

With a refundable tax credit, if the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's federal income tax liability, the family receives the excess amount as a tax refund. Nonrefundable credits, on the other hand, can only offset taxes owed, providing no benefit to families who do not have a tax liability. A refundable credit therefore provides greater benefits to families.

Earned income credits demonstrate how a tax incentive can encourage families with children to work or increase work effort in order to provide for their children.

States with Refundable Earned Income Credits

State	Percentage of Federal EIC	State	Percentage of Federal EIC
Kansas	10%	Vermont	25%
Maryland	12.5%	Wisconsin	
Massachusetts	10%	with 1 child	4%
Minnesota	25%	with 2 children	14%
New York	20%	with 3 children	43%

Conclusion

Earned income credits demonstrate how a tax incentive can encourage families with children to work or increase work effort in order to provide for their children. EIC targets low- and moderate-income working families. The federal EIC tax table specifically tailors the amount provided to families based on their earned income and number of children.

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Child Support Collections

Parents must support their children financially until age 18. It is difficult to ensure this support for many children of divorced or unmarried parents. Children supported by just one parent usually do not have the same resources as children supported by both parents. The Ohio Office of Child Support and each of the 88 county child support agencies work to help collect financial support owed children by both parents.

Ohio's child support program contributes to the well-being of over one million children, more than any other public program except public education. More than $1.5 billion was collected for children in 1998, up from $810 million in 1990.

Receiving child support can make a major difference in a child's life. In fact, for some children, it can mean the difference between living above or below the poverty line. For others, regular child support payments can help prevent their family from returning to public assistance.

In 1997 alone, 51,400 babies—about one-third of all children born in Ohio—were born to unmarried parents, and an estimated 42,800[41] children were affected by their parents' divorce. That is, each year almost 100,000 children are added to those needing child support.

Seventy-two percent of all child support collections in Ohio come from wage withholding. Ohio leads the nation in wage withholding.

Tools To Collect Money Owed to Ohio's Children

Statewide, one in three (33.8%) children due child support received some payment in 1997, up from one in five (20.7%) in 1990. In fact, from 1990 to 1997, 67 counties improved the percentage of cases in which some payment was made during the year; of those counties that did not improve, some maintained already above average rates.

Ohio children who received some support in 1997 received an average of $3,224, or $62 a week. Average county collection rates ranged from $27 to $119 a week, with the average being $62. To put this amount in perspective, the average cost for one week of child care for a toddler in a child care center is $86.

Child support agencies have raised their collection rates and amounts by employing many of the following practices:

- Seventy-two percent of all collections in Ohio come from *wage withholding.* Ohio leads the nation in wage withholding.
- Four percent of all collections in Ohio come from *tax return interception.*
- *Absent parents can be located* though the Ohio Parent Locator Service, which pulls information from the Social Security Administration, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, three national credit agencies, and lists of newly hired employees.
- *Delinquent parents may be penalized* for repeated refusal to pay child support by having professional and drivers licenses revoked and being posted on "Most Wanted" lists.

Paternity establishment (identifying the father) has also improved, from 17,858 paternities established in 1990 to 55,253 in 1998, a threefold increase.

Conclusion
With large numbers of Ohio children affected by divorce and born to unmarried parents, many will need child support. Child support is crucial for children in families participating in Ohio Works First (Ohio's welfare reform program). As families exhaust their three-year cash assistance time limits, their children will need the resources of both parents even more.

Ohio Works First: Moving from Welfare to Work

Thousands of Ohio children live in families whose three-year welfare time limits may expire in October, 2000.

The three-year time limits clock started ticking for thousands of Ohio Works First (OWF) families in October, 1997. More than 100,000 poor families, including more than 200,000 children, receive cash assistance through OWF; more than 26,000 adults may exhaust their OWF time limit in October, 2000, and no longer receive cash assistance. A family with children and an income at or below approximately 63% of the poverty level (about $8,744 annually, or $4.20 an hour for a family of three) is eligible for OWF.

Caseloads have declined by nearly 50% since September, 1995. A strong economy and welfare reform are most often cited for this drop in caseloads. However, in addition to work, families have left OWF for marriage, relocation, sanctions, and other reasons, and fewer families are entering the program.

Ohio Works First provides temporary cash assistance and education, training, and work experience to help families find jobs. It helps eliminate barriers to employment, such as lack of child care, health care, transportation, and food. County commissioners are responsible for implementing federal and state laws.

How OWF Affects Children
Children who grow up poor often have poorer health, lower school achievement, more stress, and less access to quality child care, housing, food, and schools that can mitigate the effects of poverty. OWF provides incentives and tools to help parents become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty.

Ohio Works First helps to educate parents by allowing them to count as work

- education activities that are directly related to employment for participants who have not earned a high school diploma/GED;
- education activities for participants that will lead to a high school diploma/GED; and
- post-secondary education such as employment-related courses at community colleges.

History[42]
In 1935, during the Depression, a cash assistance program, later called Aid to Dependent Children, was established to encourage the care of needy children in their homes. The 1988 Family Support Act established the JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills) program. JOBS encouraged and often

Profile of Ohio Works First Families,[a] December, 1998[b]	
Assistance Groups/Families: The average family has three persons; a mother and two children. About 32% of the caseload are child-only cases, where cash assistance is provided only to children living with their grandparents or other relatives who do not qualify for assistance. Child-only cases are not subject to time limits.	113,718
Adults: Nearly 29% of caseload.	83,340
Children: More than 71% of the caseload. Approximately one in 15, or 6.7%, Ohio children receive assistance through OWF.	207,203
Adults with Earnings: 24% of the caseload, up from 8% in September, 1995. Ohio expanded the Earned Income Disregard (SHB 408) to allow families to keep more of what they earned while on assistance to ease the transition from cash assistance to work. Average adult earnings: $4.92/hour.	21,696
Adults with a High School Education: 48% of the adult caseload has a high school diploma/GED. This percentage has dropped as the caseload has declined. More participants with a high school diploma or GED have left OWF.	40,326
Families Subject to Time Limits: Participants can receive cash benefits for up to 36 months (need not be consecutive). After 36 months, cash benefits cannot be collected unless the participant is exempt due to hardship. Participants must show good cause to access the remaining 24 months of cash benefits after their two-year break.	77,813
Adults Receiving OWF Longer than 16 Months (2/99): Some of these families may be the first to hit time limits in October, 2000.	26,077
FY1999 Federal All-Family Participation Rate: FY1999 work requirements: participants must work 25 hours per week. Thirty-five percent of caseload must meet federal work requirements.	48.7%
FY1999 Federal Two-Parent Participation Rate: Participants must work 35 to 55 hours per week (depending on their child care arrangements). Ninety percent of caseload must meet federal work requirements.	73.6%

[a] All data from, or derived from, the Ohio Department of Human Services, Demographics for OWF Combined Recipients, or GRP219RH Report for December, 1998 as of 12/31/98, except for participation rate data which is from the Participation Rates report produced by the Bureau of Performance Management; and data on the number of adults receiving OWF longer than 12 months is from Ohio Department of Human Services Adults by Months on OWF Since October 1997 by Counties as of February, 1999 report, Office of Research.

[b] Unless otherwise noted.

required parents to work or to engage in education and training activities in exchange for cash assistance.

Ohio enacted SHB 167, the bipartisan welfare reform law, in 1995. The federal *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* then established the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, ending welfare as we know it. In 1997 Ohio built on state and federal welfare reform law and continued bipartisan support with enactment of SHB 408. Time limits and sanctions became conditions of the cash assistance program.

Ohio's new welfare law named the state's TANF program Ohio Works First and created the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency program. The PRC program provides benefits and services to working poor families to help them avoid cash assistance.

How OWF Works

To be eligible for OWF, a family must have (1) a child, or custody of a child, and (2) an income approximately 63% of the federal poverty level (about $8,744 annually, or $4.20/hour for a family of three) or less. A child's eligibility ends at age 18, or if the child is still in high school, at age 19. OWF-eligible families are generally eligible for other public programs, including Medicaid, food stamps, and child care, while involved in activities leading to self-sufficiency. The maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is $362 (December, 1998, average per family: $314).

Ohio Works First provides temporary cash assistance and education, training, and work experience to help families find jobs.

Participants can receive cash benefits for up to 36 months, which need not be consecutive. After 36 months, cash benefits cannot be collected unless the participant is exempt due to hardship. Participants must show good cause to receive up to 24 months of additional cash benefits, after a two-year break.

Federal funding for OWF comes as a block grant set at the same annual amount for a six-year period. But while state and federal laws guide the program, county commissioners make many of the decisions regarding OWF. Commissioners must enter into partnership agreements with the state that detail program design and administration along with county and state obligations. Human Services Planning Committees advise and are appointed by the commissioners.

The program is not an entitlement; eligibility does not guarantee benefit receipt. To receive benefits in FY1999, participants must work 25 hours per week. Thirty-five percent of the caseload must meet these federal work requirements in 1999; this percentage increases to 40% in 2000.

Summary

More than 100,000 Ohio children live in families whose three-year welfare time limits may expire in October, 2000. While the rate of adults with paychecks increased from 8% to 24% from 1995 to 1998, only half of the remaining single parents are in 25-hour-a-week work activities.

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Ohio Children

Capital: Columbus
Population rank: 7

Population: 11,186,331
Poverty rate: 11.3%
Poverty rank: 29

Child population: 2,838,641
Child poverty rate: 18.0%
Child poverty rank: 23

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 125,823 Ohio fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test.

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 66,096 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

All Ohio Public School Districts

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
All Ohio Districts	1,833,551	100%	47%	68%	47%	125,823

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Ohio Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
41,852	62,618	48,956	57,159

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Ohio Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

40.4% of babies born in Ohio in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.2% had all three.

Profile of Ohio Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	166,686	151,396
% births to a teen mother	13.8%	13.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.3%	17.8%
% births to unmarried parents	28.9%	34.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.1%	7.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.4%	14.0%

Ohio Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	560,731

*49,309 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	83,888
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	20,000
Number of additional children expected to enroll	103,888

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 672,806 Ohio families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,449.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 34% of Ohio families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 21% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $62.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Ohio public assistance caseloads dropped by 46% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 26,077 Ohio adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 47% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	14,707	22,199
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	182,006	91,909
Number of children receiving cash assistance	392,355	221,587
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	57%	49%

Adams County Children

County seat: West Union
Population rank: 79
County population: 28,480
Poverty rate: 20.3%
Poverty rank: 3
Child population: 8,030
Child poverty rate: 28.7%
Child poverty rank: 6

EDUCATION

READING: 51% of the 353 Adams County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 31% would have passed the test. This means 69%, or 245 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Adams County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Adams Co./Ohio Valley	5,424	100%	64%	51%	31%	353

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Adams County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
147	74	179	212

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Adams County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

56.7% of babies born in Adams County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 22.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.2% had all three.

Profile of Adams County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	365	367
% births to a teen mother	24.9%	22.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	31.5%	33.2%
% births to unmarried parents	22.7%	31.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.2%	10.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	23.6%	16.7%

Adams County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,456

*323 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	42
Number of additional children expected to enroll	42

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,551 Adams County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,526.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 57% of Adams County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $127.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Adams County public assistance caseloads dropped by 51% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 79 Adams County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 72% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	40	62
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	799	336
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,435	739
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	45%	39%

Allen County Children

County seat: Lima
Population rank: 25

County population: 107,979
Poverty rate: 11.4%
Poverty rank: 37

Child population: 28,756
Child poverty rate: 17.3%
Child poverty rank: 40

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 1,233 Allen County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 648 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Allen County Public School Districts: 60% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Lima City	6,001	31%	72%	45%	27%	368
Elida Local	3,109	16%	28%	76%	56%	194
Shawnee Local	2,635	14%	14%	81%	57%	154

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

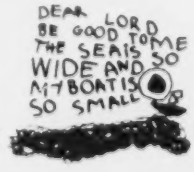
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Allen County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
245	302	576	600

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Allen County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

45.8% of babies born in Allen County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 21.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.6% had all three.

Profile of Allen County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,810	1,506
% births to a teen mother	18.5%	17.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	22.6%	19.3%
% births to unmarried parents	34.7%	40.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.1%	7.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	32.3%	16.7%

Allen County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	5,010

*325 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,068
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	209
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,277

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 6,915 Allen County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,478.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 21% of Allen County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 34% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $27.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Allen County public assistance caseloads dropped by 63% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 45 Allen County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 64% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	110	131
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,393	394
Number of children receiving cash assistance	3,695	1,313
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	60%	55%

Ashland County Children

County seat: Ashland
Population rank: 48

County population: 52,010
Poverty rate: 8.4%
Poverty rank: 60

Child population: 13,647
Child poverty rate: 13.0%
Child poverty rank: 57

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 500 Ashland County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 266 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Ashland County Public School Districts: 86% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Ashland City	4,129	52%	34%	70%	43%	254
Loudonville-Perrysville	1,470	18%	29%	62%	41%	98
Hillsdale Local	1,247	16%	18%	76%	58%	74

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Ashland County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
310	81	172	208

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Ashland County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.6% of babies born in Ashland County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 14.3% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.4% had all three.

Profile of Ashland County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	614	629
% births to a teen mother	12.5%	12.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	23.0%	24.8%
% births to unmarried parents	18.7%	25.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.6%	4.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	31.8%	22.5%

Ashland County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,438

*212 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	523
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	111
Number of additional children expected to enroll	634

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,490 Ashland County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,382.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 37% of Ashland County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 35% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $119.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Ashland County public assistance caseloads dropped by 62% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 12 Ashland County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 58% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	24	28
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	276	85
Number of children receiving cash assistance	592	205
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	67%	49%

Ashtabula County Children

County seat: Jefferson
Population rank: 26
County population: 103,140
Poverty rate: 14.2%
Poverty rank: 22
Child population: 27,503
Child poverty rate: 22.4%
Child poverty rank: 21

EDUCATION

READING: 69% of the 1,261 Ashtabula County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 45% would have passed the test. This means 55%, or 693 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Ashtabula County Public School Districts: 60% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Ashtabula Area City	5,225	28%	71%	63%	39%	350
Geneva Area City	3,292	18%	55%	69%	47%	239
Conneaut Area City	2,590	14%	61%	70%	44%	171

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

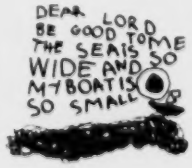
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Ashtabula County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
571	694	641	616

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Ashtabula County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

48.5% of babies born in Ashtabula County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.1% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.3% had all three.

Profile of Ashtabula County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,462	1,342
% births to a teen mother	16.4%	16.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	24.1%	23.8%
% births to unmarried parents	31.1%	37.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.0%	6.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.1%	16.8%

Ashtabula County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	6,117

*780 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	393
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	177
Number of additional children expected to enroll	570

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 7,418 Ashtabula County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,491.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 32% of Ashtabula County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 18% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $71.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Ashtabula County public assistance caseloads dropped by 69% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 80 Ashtabula County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 71% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	153	129
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,792	379
Number of children receiving cash assistance	3,573	1,090
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	59%

Athens County Children

County seat: Athens
Population rank: 42

County population: 61,276
Poverty rate: 20.1%
Poverty rank: 4

Child population: 12,516
Child poverty rate: 26.1%
Child poverty rank: 8

EDUCATION

READING: 62% of the 545 Athens County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 41% would have passed the test. This means 59%, or 320 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Athens County Public School Districts: 72% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Athens City	3,275	35%	66%	75%	57%	175
Alexander Local	1,780	19%	44%	54%	30%	121
Federal Hocking Local	1,625	17%	60%	58%	38%	105

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

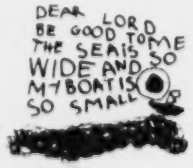
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Athens County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
330	470	287	296

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Athens County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

42.8% of babies born in Athens County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.1% had all three.

Profile of Athens County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	625	622
% births to a teen mother	17.9%	16.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	25.0%	19.9%
% births to unmarried parents	27.0%	32.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.0%	8.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.5%	20.8%

Athens County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	3,973

*507 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	185
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	104
Number of additional children expected to enroll	289

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,059 Athens County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,357.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 33% of Athens County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 40% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $52.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Athens County public assistance caseloads dropped by 49% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 145 Athens County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 64% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	111	165
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,256	636
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,321	1,183
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	59%	50%

Auglaize County Children

County seat: Wapokoneta **County population:** 46,965 **Child population:** 13,337
Population rank: 51 **Poverty rate:** 5.6% **Child poverty rate:** 7.8%
Poverty rank: 84 **Child poverty rank:** 84

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 611 Auglaize County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 55% would have passed the test. This means 45%, or 274 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Auglaize County Public School Districts: 79% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Wapakoneta City	3,583	38%	22%	71%	52%	227
St Marys City	2,847	30%	30%	70%	44%	163
New Bremen Local	959	10%	8%	92%	77%	62

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

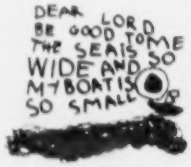
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Auglaize County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
68	71	94	89

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Auglaize County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

27.6% of babies born in Auglaize County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 12.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.2% had all three.

Profile of Auglaize County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	720	597
% births to a teen mother	9.2%	11.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	9.7%	10.9%
% births to unmarried parents	14.6%	21.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.0%	5.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.2%	12.3%

Auglaize County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	986

*138 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	611
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	113
Number of additional children expected to enroll	724

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,333 Auglaize County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,350.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 49% of Auglaize County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 60% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $51.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Auglaize County public assistance caseloads dropped by 51% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 9 Auglaize County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 74% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	24	31
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	206	83
Number of children receiving cash assistance	403	195
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	69%	48%

Belmont County Children

County seat:
St. Clairsville
Population rank: 36

County population: 69,595
Poverty rate: 15.7%
Poverty rank: 14

Child population: 15,940
Child poverty rate: 24.7%
Child poverty rank: 15

EDUCATION

READING: 67% of the 657 Belmont County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 42% would have passed the test. This means 58%, or 380 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Belmont County Public School Districts: 52% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
St Clairsville-Richland	1,907	19%	57%	73%	49%	123
Bellaire City	1,788	18%	69%	62%	32%	112
Union Local	1,586	16%	54%	63%	44%	112

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Belmont County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
226	259	376	372

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Belmont County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.0% of babies born in Belmont County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 2.5% had all three.

Profile of Belmont County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	844	712
% births to a teen mother	11.0%	11.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.8%	15.4%
% births to unmarried parents	28.0%	35.8%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.6%	6.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.9%	16.8%

Belmont County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	4,633

*573 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	95
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	101
Number of additional children expected to enroll	196

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,274 Belmont County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,422.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 45% of Belmont County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 21% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $50.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Belmont County public assistance caseloads dropped by 49% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 237 Belmont County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 71% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	182	240
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,850	786
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,880	1,456
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	65%	62%

Brown County Children

County seat: Georgetown
Population rank: 59
County population: 40,243
Poverty rate: 12.1%
Poverty rank: 29
Child population: 11,217
Child poverty rate: 17.9%
Child poverty rank: 36

EDUCATION

READING: 54% of the 613 Brown County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 37% would have passed the test. This means 63%, or 384 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Brown County Public School Districts: 75% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Western Brown Local	3,198	39%	37%	49%	35%	254
Eastern Local	1,576	19%	35%	58%	33%	128
Ripley-Union-Lewis Local	1,347	16%	57%	47%	32%	96

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Brown County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
309	82	185	173

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Brown County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

43.4% of babies born in Brown County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.4% had all three.

Profile of Brown County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	516	517
% births to a teen mother	17.1%	17.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	23.8%	21.9%
% births to unmarried parents	23.4%	31.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.6%	5.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.6%	10.9%

Brown County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,975

*332 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	158
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	74
Number of additional children expected to enroll	232

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,781 Brown County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,511.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 36% of Brown County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 33% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $56.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Brown County public assistance caseloads dropped by 71% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 18 Brown County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 71% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	33	37
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	540	90
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,048	291
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	54%	50%

Butler County Children

County seat: Hamilton
Population rank: 8

County population: 326,749
Poverty rate: 8.0%
Poverty rank: 61

Child population: 84,272
Child poverty rate: 11.9%
Child poverty rank: 61

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 3,721 Butler County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 51% would have passed the test. This means 49%, or 1,807 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Butler County Public School Districts: 62% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Lakota Local	13,111	24%	8%	86%	69%	1,002
Hamilton City	10,345	19%	65%	55%	34%	626
Middletown-Monroe City	9,817	18%	49%	55%	33%	632

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Butler County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
391	689	930	1,055

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Butler County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.4% of babies born in Butler County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 15.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.3% had all three.

Profile of Butler County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	4,425	4,496
% births to a teen mother	13.1%	12.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.9%	15.9%
% births to unmarried parents	21.5%	27.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.4%	6.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.7%	13.2%

Butler County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	9,576

*800 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	3,551
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	654
Number of additional children expected to enroll	4,205

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 15,914 Butler County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,466.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 34% of Butler County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $71.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Butler County public assistance caseloads dropped by 60% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 123 Butler County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 41% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	221	302
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	3,105	1,092
Number of children receiving cash assistance	7,250	2,963
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	51%	42%

Carroll County Children

County seat: Carrollton
Population rank: 76

County population: 28,925
Poverty rate: 10.9%
Poverty rank: 42

Child population: 7,711
Child poverty rate: 15.4%
Child poverty rank: 47

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 283 Carroll County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 48% would have passed the test. This means 52%, or 148 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Carroll County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Carrollton Village	3,027	74%	46%	72%	49%	217
Brown Local	1,088	26%	34%	68%	44%	66

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

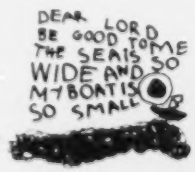
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Carroll County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
61	33	106	123

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Carroll County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.4% of babies born in Carroll County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 14.7% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.2% had all three.

Profile of Carroll County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	370	332
% births to a teen mother	16.5%	14.8%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	17.8%	15.1%
% births to unmarried parents	18.9%	22.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.1%	6.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.4%	10.8%

Carroll County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,225

*188 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	171
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	54
Number of additional children expected to enroll	225

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,263 Carroll County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,469.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 61% of Carroll County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 59% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $61.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Carroll County public assistance caseloads dropped by 42% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 22 Carroll County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 77% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	28	53
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	288	156
Number of children receiving cash assistance	551	303
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	67%	54%

43

Champaign County Children

County seat: Urbana
Population rank: 64

County population: 38,221
Poverty rate: 8.0%
Poverty rank: 61

Child population: 9,790
Child poverty rate: 11.2%
Child poverty rank: 64

EDUCATION

READING: 69% of the 533 Champaign County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 45% would have passed the test. This means 55%, or 292 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Champaign County Public School Districts: 76% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Urbana City	2,453	33%	31%	66%	43%	145
Graham Local	2,161	29%	22%	74%	51%	166
West Liberty-Salem Local	1,094	15%	16%	76%	52%	84

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Champaign County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
244	113	113	93

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Champaign County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

37.4% of babies born in Champaign County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 15.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.2% had all three.

Profile of Champaign County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	472	500
% births to a teen mother	13.6%	16.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	15.9%	14%
% births to unmarried parents	21.2%	30.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.8%	6.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.9%	11.8%

Champaign County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,163

*182 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	322
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	76
Number of additional children expected to enroll	398

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,005 Champaign County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,424.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 27% of Champaign County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 33% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $86.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Champaign County public assistance caseloads dropped by 54% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 14 Champaign County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 49% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	30	41
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	287	112
Number of children receiving cash assistance	606	245
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	50%

Clark County Children

County seat: Springfield
Population rank: 15

County population: 146,185
Poverty rate: 12.1%
Poverty rank: 29

Child population: 36,624
Child poverty rate: 19.6%
Child poverty rank: 26

EDUCATION

READING: 63% of the 1,795 Clark County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 42% would have passed the test. This means 58%, or 1,041 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Clark County Public School Districts: 71% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Springfield City	10,952	42%	70%	45%	28%	748
Tecumseh Local	3,845	15%	38%	72%	48%	251
Northeastern Local	3,472	13%	14%	82%	57%	262

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Clark County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
435	677	708	687

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Clark County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

48.0% of babies born in Clark County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 24.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 10.4% had all three.

Profile of Clark County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	2,119	1,922
% births to a teen mother	19.6%	18.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	24.4%	23.4%
% births to unmarried parents	32.0%	41.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.8%	7.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	21.7%	14.3%

Clark County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	8,479

*777 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	865
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	247
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,112

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 9,617 Clark County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,476.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 41% of Clark County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $40.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Clark County public assistance caseloads dropped by 50% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 204 Clark County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 47% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	227	362
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	2,427	1,203
Number of children receiving cash assistance	5,401	2,794
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	56%	40%

Clermont County Children

County seat: Batavia
Population rank: 13

County population: 173,163
Poverty rate: 7.1%
Poverty rank: 70

Child population: 49,551
Child poverty rate: 10.5%
Child poverty rank: 68

EDUCATION

READING: 73% of the 1,997 Clermont County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 51% would have passed the test. This means 49%, or 976 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Clermont County Public School Districts: 61% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
West Clermont Local	9,212	32%	26%	74%	52%	653
Milford Village	5,746	20%	17%	75%	55%	410
New Richmond Village	2,834	10%	47%	74%	54%	183

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Clermont County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
514	457	458	502

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Clermont County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

31.0% of babies born in Clermont County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 14.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.3% had all three.

Profile of Clermont County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	2,630	2,622
% births to a teen mother	12.9%	12.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.4%	13.9%
% births to unmarried parents	19.8%	24.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.5%	7.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	15.4%	8.2%

Clermont County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	5,501

*713 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,766
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	373
Number of additional children expected to enroll	2,139

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 8,780 Clermont County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,446.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 48% of Clermont County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 40% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $72.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Clermont County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 62 Clermont County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 62% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	125	165
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,447	538
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,959	1,289
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	53%	43%

Clinton County Children

County seat: Wilmington
Population rank: 62
County population: 39,318
Poverty rate: 9.1%
Poverty rank: 55
Child population: 10,479
Child poverty rate: 13.0%
Child poverty rank: 57

EDUCATION

READING: 70% of the 573 Clinton County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 303 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Clinton County Public School Districts: 81% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Wilmington City	3,462	40%	51%	66%	46%	248
Blanchester Local	1,847	22%	38%	73%	49%	125
East Clinton Local	1,685	20%	27%	63%	38%	94

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Clinton County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
125	118	162	162

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

55

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Clinton County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.1% of babies born in Clinton County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.3% had all three.

Profile of Clinton County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	505	572
% births to a teen mother	13.3%	17.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.2%	17.8%
% births to unmarried parents	20.8%	31.8%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.3%	7.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	21.9%	23.3%

Clinton County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,174

*157 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	354
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	77
Number of additional children expected to enroll	431

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,768 Clinton County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,485.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 46% of Clinton County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 36% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $59.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Clinton County public assistance caseloads dropped by 66% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 7 Clinton County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 74% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	45	29
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	369	78
Number of children receiving cash assistance	786	239
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	58%	47%

Columbiana County Children

County seat: Lisbon
Population rank: 23

County population: 111,644
Poverty rate: 14.0%
Poverty rank: 24

Child population: 28,831
Child poverty rate: 21.8%
Child poverty rank: 23

EDUCATION

READING: 72% of the 1,172 Columbiana County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 48% would have passed the test. This means 52%, or 612 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Columbiana County Public School Districts: 47% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
East Liverpool City	3,524	19%	46%	51%	31%	191
Salem City	2,866	15%	49%	84%	61%	183
Beaver Local	2,436	13%	47%	70%	51%	176

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Columbiana County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
585	794	516	554

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Columbiana County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

40.7% of babies born in Columbiana County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.4% had all three.

Profile of Columbiana County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,479	1,308
% births to a teen mother	14.9%	14.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.1%	17.1%
% births to unmarried parents	22.0%	32.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.2%	7.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	17.0%	14.7%

Columbiana County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	6,588

*944 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	361
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	196
Number of additional children expected to enroll	557

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 7,781 Columbiana County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,451.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 31% of Columbiana County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 24% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $66.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Columbiana County public assistance caseloads dropped by 68% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 67 Columbiana County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	144	129
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,898	449
Number of children receiving cash assistance	3,431	1,113
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	65%	55%

Coshocton County Children

County seat: Coshocton
Population rank: 67

County population: 36,156
Poverty rate: 11.9%
Poverty rank: 32

Child population: 9,547
Child poverty rate: 17.6%
Child poverty rank: 38

EDUCATION

READING: 62% of the 405 Coshocton County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 38% would have passed the test. This means 62%, or 250 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Coshocton County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
River View Local	2,798	43%	34%	63%	40%	176
Coshocton City	2,136	33%	50%	52%	31%	126
Ridgewood Local	1,600	24%	33%	75%	45%	103

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Coshocton County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
220	251	209	226

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Coshocton County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

42.9% of babies born in Coshocton County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 15.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.7% had all three.

Profile of Coshocton County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	492	443
% births to a teen mother	15.0%	13.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	25.8%	26.9%
% births to unmarried parents	27.2%	26.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.3%	7.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.8%	14.5%

Coshocton County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,741

*266 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	194
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	69
Number of additional children expected to enroll	263

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,347 Coshocton County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,486.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 37% of Coshocton County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 45% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $76.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Coshocton County public assistance caseloads dropped by 53% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 31 Coshocton County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 61% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	38	46
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	386	180
Number of children receiving cash assistance	829	393
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	60%	49%

Crawford County Children

County seat: Bucyrus
Population rank: 50

County population: 47,089
Poverty rate: 10.5%
Poverty rank: 46

Child population: 12,146
Child poverty rate: 15.6%
Child poverty rank: 46

EDUCATION

READING: 66% of the 498 Crawford County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 279 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Crawford County Public School Districts: 68% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Galion City	2,502	30%	59%	56%	36%	160
Bucyrus City	1,988	24%	51%	67%	44%	114
Wynford Local	1,245	15%	42%	63%	42%	57

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Crawford County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
238	224	205	210

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Crawford County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

40.8% of babies born in Crawford County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.7% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.4% had all three.

Profile of Crawford County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	681	578
% births to a teen mother	16.0%	15.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	21.7%	20.1%
% births to unmarried parents	24.5%	31%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.3%	5.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.7%	15.8%

Crawford County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,242

*295 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	284
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	87
Number of additional children expected to enroll	371

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,367 Crawford County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,474.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 43% of Crawford County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 35% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $75.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Crawford County public assistance caseloads dropped by 60% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 21 Crawford County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 86% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	44	53
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	581	199
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,122	457
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	60%	50%

Cuyahoga County Children

County seat: Cleveland
Population rank: 1
County population: 1,386,803
Poverty rate: 14.3%
Poverty rank: 21
Child population: 329,929
Child poverty rate: 25.2%
Child poverty rank: 11

EDUCATION

READING: 64% of the 13,962 Cuyahoga County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 7,847 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Cuyahoga County Public School Districts: 47% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Cleveland City	73,530	37%	94%	46%	25%	5,288
Parma City	13,052	7%	32%	74%	54%	917
Berea City	8,079	4%	28%	76%	54%	539

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Cuyahoga County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
5,882	12,100	7,357	9,547

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Cuyahoga County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

46.3% of babies born in Cuyahoga County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.3% had all three.

Profile of Cuyahoga County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	23,031	19,474
% births to a teen mother	13.7%	13.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.6%	19.1%
% births to unmarried parents	39.5%	42.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	9.1%	9.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.5%	16.4%

Cuyahoga County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	105,887

*5,518 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	7,583
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	1,968
Number of additional children expected to enroll	9,551

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 93,633 Cuyahoga County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,454.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 26% of Cuyahoga County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 12% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $71.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Cuyahoga County public assistance caseloads dropped by 32% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 10,885 Cuyahoga County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 30% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	2,783	5,334
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	39,018	26,045
Number of children receiving cash assistance	83,559	60,667
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	54%	46%

Darke County Children

County seat: Greenville
Population rank: 45
County population: 54,318
Poverty rate: 7.6%
Poverty rank: 64
Child population: 14,511
Child poverty rate: 11.1%
Child poverty rank: 65

EDUCATION

READING: 78% of the 653 Darke County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 57% would have passed the test. This means 43%, or 280 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Darke County Public School Districts: 66% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Greenville City	3,666	38%	34%	73%	52%	246
Versailles Village	1,398	15%	7%	86%	65%	106
Arcanum Butler Local	1,254	13%	18%	78%	63%	101

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Darke County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
138	117	188	191

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Darke County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.6% of babies born in Darke County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 14.3% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.6% had all three.

Profile of Darke County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	775	628
% births to a teen mother	11.7%	12.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	15.5%	14.4%
% births to unmarried parents	17.7%	26.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.2%	7.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	13.5%	11.7%

Darke County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,392

*215 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	571
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	118
Number of additional children expected to enroll	689

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,496 Darke County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,410.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 64% of Darke County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 40% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Darke County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 15 Darke County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 59% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	17	30
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	288	96
Number of children receiving cash assistance	554	226
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	52%	43%

Defiance County Children

County seat: Defiance
Population rank: 60

County population: 39,932
Poverty rate: 6.9%
Poverty rank: 73

Child population: 11,172
Child poverty rate: 10.1%
Child poverty rank: 72

EDUCATION

READING: 76% of the 486 Defiance County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 55% would have passed the test. This means 45%, or 217 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Defiance County Public School Districts: 74% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Defiance City	3,128	41%	21%	83%	63%	169
Central Local	1,296	17%	19%	67%	47%	103
Northeastern Local	1,262	16%	9%	80%	62%	79

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Defiance County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
148	167	113	141

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Defiance County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

42.1% of babies born in Defiance County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.7% had all three.

Profile of Defiance County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	544	507
% births to a teen mother	14.3%	17.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.2%	14.4%
% births to unmarried parents	26.8%	36.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.1%	5.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	25.2%	21.9%

Defiance County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,338

*177 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	425
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	91
Number of additional children expected to enroll	516

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,976 Defiance County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,440.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 68% of Defiance County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 62% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $67.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Defiance County public assistance caseloads dropped by 51% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 10 Defiance County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	37	33
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	316	105
Number of children receiving cash assistance	617	296
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	67%	53%

Delaware County Children

County seat: Delaware
Population rank: 30

County population: 87,396
Poverty rate: 4.5%
Poverty rank: 87

Child population: 23,362
Child poverty rate: 6.0%
Child poverty rank: 88

EDUCATION

READING: 76% of the 975 Delaware County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 56% would have passed the test. This means 44%, or 430 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Delaware County Public School Districts: 82% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Delaware City	4,057	32%	42%	66%	45%	293
Olentangy Local	3,822	30%	11%	82%	62%	318
Big Walnut Local	2,690	21%	31%	81%	61%	216

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Delaware County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
335	69	106	114

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Delaware County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

17.1% of babies born in Delaware County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 7.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.0% had all three.

Profile of Delaware County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	960	1,284
% births to a teen mother	9.8%	6.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	10.5%	6.7%
% births to unmarried parents	15.9%	14.4%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.6%	7.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	9.3%	6.7%

Delaware County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,899

*267 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	924
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	179
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,103

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,061 Delaware County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,393.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 56% of Delaware County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 34% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $78.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Delaware County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 14 Delaware County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 61% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	31	31
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	407	130
Number of children receiving cash assistance	813	358
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	49%

Erie County Children

County seat: Sandusky
Population rank: 33

County population: 78,745
Poverty rate: 9.5%
Poverty rank: 52

Child population: 20,166
Child poverty rate: 14.3%
Child poverty rank: 52

EDUCATION

READING: 70% of the 957 Erie County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 51% would have passed the test. This means 49%, or 466 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Erie County Public School Districts: 66% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Sandusky City	4,671	32%	73%	58%	35%	314
Vermilion Local	2,770	19%	25%	68%	47%	175
Perkins Local	2,139	15%	15%	89%	80%	123

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Erie County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
521	686	287	188

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Erie County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.5% of babies born in Erie County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.4% had all three.

Profile of Erie County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,076	1,016
% births to a teen mother	13.3%	14.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	15.1%	15.1%
% births to unmarried parents	27.0%	37.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.4%	8.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	19.4%	12.8%

Erie County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,913

*290 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	695
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	148
Number of additional children expected to enroll	843

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,042 Erie County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,494.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 27% of Erie County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 39% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $56.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Erie County public assistance caseloads dropped by 67% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 35 Erie County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 60% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	79	80
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	731	156
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,818	605
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	54%

Fairfield County Children

County seat: Lancaster
Population rank: 21

County population: 121,457
Poverty rate: 7.0%
Poverty rank: 72

Child population: 31,778
Child poverty rate: 10.5%
Child poverty rank: 68

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 1,528 Fairfield County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 54% would have passed the test. This means 46%, or 705 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Fairfield County Public School Districts: 70% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Pickerington Local	6,593	31%	3%	88%	70%	519
Lancaster City	6,484	30%	51%	62%	41%	455
Fairfield Union Local	1,930	9%	30%	74%	45%	144

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Fairfield County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
264	438	270	295

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Fairfield County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

28.7% of babies born in Fairfield County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.0% had all three.

Profile of Fairfield County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,491	1,616
% births to a teen mother	13.5%	11.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	14.0%	11.8%
% births to unmarried parents	19.0%	23.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.4%	6.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.5%	13.8%

Fairfield County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid 2,892

*397 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,287
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	253
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,540

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,418 Fairfield County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,442.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 56% of Fairfield County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 69% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $48.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Fairfield County public assistance caseloads dropped by 52% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 79 Fairfield County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 48% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	84	87
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	843	336
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,605	749
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	50%

Fayette County Children

County seat:
Washington Court House
Population rank: 78

County population: 28,599
Poverty rate: 12.5%
Poverty rank: 27

Child population: 7,312
Child poverty rate: 18.8%
Child poverty rank: 30

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 374 Fayette County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 42% would have passed the test. This means 58%, or 216 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Fayette County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Miami Trace Local	2,952	55%	38%	65%	42%	225
Washington Court House	2,368	45%	35%	64%	42%	149

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Fayette County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
176	143	194	189

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Fayette County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

47.5% of babies born in Fayette County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 18.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.9% had all three.

Profile of Fayette County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	413	389
% births to a teen mother	17.9%	17.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	23.7%	17.2%
% births to unmarried parents	26.9%	37.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.8%	6.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	23.7%	13.1%

Fayette County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,329

*217 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	128
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	52
Number of additional children expected to enroll	180

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,888 Fayette County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,449.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 49% of Fayette County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 26% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $42.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Fayette County public assistance caseloads dropped by 63% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 19 Fayette County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 70% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	34	30
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	379	97
Number of children receiving cash assistance	743	280
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	57%	43%

Franklin County Children

County seat: Columbus
Population rank: 2

County population: 1,017,274
Poverty rate: 11.7%
Poverty rank: 35

Child population: 249,615
Child poverty rate: 19.4%
Child poverty rank: 27

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 11,919 Franklin County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 46% would have passed the test. This means 54%, or 6,470 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Franklin County Public School Districts: 59% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Columbus City	63,961	39%	74%	46%	27%	4,481
South-Western City	18,337	11%	43%	57%	37%	1,290
Westerville City	13,037	8%	25%	78%	57%	996

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Franklin County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
3,933	7,284	4,922	6,237

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Franklin County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

40.2% of babies born in Franklin County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.2% had all three.

Profile of Franklin County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	16,506	16,027
% births to a teen mother	13.1%	12.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.7%	17.1%
% births to unmarried parents	30.5%	35.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.4%	8.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.8%	11.3%

Franklin County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	49,709

*2,924 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	8,590
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	1,730
Number of additional children expected to enroll	10,320

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 64,199 Franklin County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,445.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 29% of Franklin County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 8% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $72.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Franklin County public assistance caseloads dropped by 47% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 2,211 Franklin County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 43% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	1,142	2,487
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	17,004	8,651
Number of children receiving cash assistance	41,447	23,251
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	51%	43%

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Fulton County Children

County seat: Wauseon
Population rank: 55

County population: 41,324
Poverty rate: 5.8%
Poverty rank: 81

Child population: 11,825
Child poverty rate: 8.1%
Child poverty rank: 80

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 653 Fulton County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 53% would have passed the test. This means 47%, or 308 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Fulton County Public School Districts: 58% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Wauseon Village	2,022	21%	25%	76%	56%	141
Swanton Local	1,750	19%	29%	71%	47%	107
Pike-Delta-York Local	1,710	18%	30%	74%	50%	118

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Fulton County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
109	117	79	120

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Fulton County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

30.0% of babies born in Fulton County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.1% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.5% had all three.

Profile of Fulton County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	592	567
% births to a teen mother	7.8%	10.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	10.8%	12.2%
% births to unmarried parents	16.9%	25.4%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.9%	7.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.7%	12.2%

Fulton County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,009

*147 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	481
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	95
Number of additional children expected to enroll	576

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,185 Fulton County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,443.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 28% of Fulton County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 30% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $83.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Fulton County public assistance caseloads dropped by 67% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 2 Fulton County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 88% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	19	25
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	199	58
Number of children receiving cash assistance	408	139
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	66%	60%

Gallia County Children

County seat: Gallipolis
Population rank: 70

County population: 33,085
Poverty rate: 18.9%
Poverty rank: 8

Child population: 8,604
Child poverty rate: 27.9%
Child poverty rank: 7

EDUCATION

READING: 58% of the 342 Gallia County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 37% would have passed the test. This means 63%, or 215 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Gallia County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Gallia County Local	3,126	55%	53%	55%	35%	185
Gallipolis City	2,579	45%	61%	63%	39%	157

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Gallia County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
159	143	126	238

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Gallia County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

47.5% of babies born in Gallia County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.1% had all three.

Profile of Gallia County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	432	362
% births to a teen mother	18.1%	18.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	30.6%	25.4%
% births to unmarried parents	24.1%	29.8%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.0%	6.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	28.3%	17.9%

Gallia County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,996

*295 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	22
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	48
Number of additional children expected to enroll	70

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,492 Gallia County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,549.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 43% of Gallia County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 30% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $49.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Gallia County public assistance caseloads dropped by 38% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 200 Gallia County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 47% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	79	128
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	987	618
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,761	1,097
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	50%	46%

Geauga County Children

County seat: Chardon
Population rank: 29

County population: 87,913
Poverty rate: 4.8%
Poverty rank: 86

Child population: 24,218
Child poverty rate: 7.3%
Child poverty rank: 86

EDUCATION

READING: 85% of the 915 Geauga County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 68% would have passed the test. This means 32%, or 294 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Geauga County Public School Districts: 66% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Chardon Local	3,077	24%	17%	93%	74%	210
Kenston Local	2,932	23%	15%	87%	74%	234
West Geauga Local	2,433	19%	8%	90%	72%	172

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Geauga County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
240	168	45	62

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Geauga County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

34.8% of babies born in Geauga County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 5.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 2.3% had all three.

Profile of Geauga County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,213	1,230
% births to a teen mother	4.1%	4.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	24.3%	26.1%
% births to unmarried parents	7.6%	11.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.6%	6.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.0%	18.9%

Geauga County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	970

*132 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,253
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	208
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,461

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,099 Geauga County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,270.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 49% of Geauga County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 55% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $86.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Geauga County public assistance caseloads dropped by 68% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 4 Geauga County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 41% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	19	16
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	256	51
Number of children receiving cash assistance	487	156
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	76%	71%

Greene County Children

County seat: Xenia
Population rank: 18

County population: 139,704
Poverty rate: 7.6%
Poverty rank: 64

Child population: 34,885
Child poverty rate: 11.1%
Child poverty rank: 65

EDUCATION

READING: 73% of the 1,661 Greene County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 52% would have passed the test. This means 48%, or 804 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Greene County Public School Districts: 77% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Beavercreek City	6,805	28%	6%	84%	66%	479
Fairborn City	6,058	25%	45%	66%	43%	374
Xenia City	5,652	23%	53%	62%	39%	398

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Greene County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
514	565	278	393

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Greene County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

30.2% of babies born in Greene County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.8% had all three.

Profile of Greene County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,804	1,610
% births to a teen mother	11.1%	11.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	13.0%	12.4%
% births to unmarried parents	19.5%	25.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.9%	7.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	12.3%	9.8%

Greene County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	4,018

*457 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,544
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	301
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,845

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,472 Greene County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,388.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 37% of Greene County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, the same as from 38% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $66.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Greene County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 63 Greene County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 80% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	135	168
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,374	485
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,664	1,080
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	67%	58%

Guernsey County Children

County seat: Cambridge
Population rank: 57

County population: 40,782
Poverty rate: 15.9%
Poverty rank: 12

Child population: 10,653
Child poverty rate: 24.1%
Child poverty rank: 16

EDUCATION

READING: 66% of the 437 Guernsey County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 42% would have passed the test. This means 58%, or 252 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Guernsey County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Cambridge City	2,980	46%	58%	65%	39%	194
Rolling Hills Local	2,284	35%	49%	62%	40%	171
East Guernsey Local	1,241	19%	57%	78%	58%	72

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Guernsey County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
189	313	263	317

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Guernsey County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

46.8% of babies born in Guernsey County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 21.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.0% had all three.

Profile of Guernsey County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	540	566
% births to a teen mother	18.7%	16.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	23.1%	27.4%
% births to unmarried parents	27.6%	33.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.5%	5.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.3%	24.5%

Guernsey County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	3,119

*474 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	62
Number of additional children expected to enroll	62

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,442 Guernsey County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,502.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 39% of Guernsey County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 33% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Guernsey County public assistance caseloads dropped by 76% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 13 Guernsey County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 69% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	57	21
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	716	98
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,465	348
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	60%	44%

Hamilton County Children

County seat: Cincinnati
Population rank: 3

County population: 851,599
Poverty rate: 11.7%
Poverty rank: 35

Child population: 219,152
Child poverty rate: 18.9%
Child poverty rank: 29

EDUCATION

READING: 63% of the 8,779 Hamilton County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 4,940 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Hamilton County Public School Districts: 54% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Cincinnati City	48,956	39%	82%	41%	23%	3,437
Northwest Local	10,740	8%	29%	73%	47%	688
Oak Hills Local	8,344	7%	N/A	81%	59%	538

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Hamilton County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
4,436	8,623	4,455	5,712

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Hamilton County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

43.1% of babies born in Hamilton County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.3% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.2% had all three.

Profile of Hamilton County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	14,421	11,998
% births to a teen mother	14.8%	14.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.2%	18.7%
% births to unmarried parents	34.9%	39.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.9%	8.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	15.5%	12.6%

Hamilton County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	44,213

*3,338 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	6,779
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	1,520
Number of additional children expected to enroll	8,299

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 56,512 Hamilton County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,499.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 26% of Hamilton County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 19% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $64.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Hamilton County public assistance caseloads dropped by 53% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 1,144 Hamilton County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 42% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	1,230	1,515
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	15,201	6,357
Number of children receiving cash assistance	36,879	18,095
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	53%	43%

Hancock County Children

County seat: Findlay
Population rank: 37
County population: 68,813
Poverty rate: 7.1%
Poverty rank: 70
Child population: 17,993
Child poverty rate: 9.6%
Child poverty rank: 73

EDUCATION

READING: 77% of the 771 Hancock County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 55% would have passed the test. This means 45%, or 349 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Hancock County Public School Districts: 71% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Findlay City	6,375	54%	46%	73%	51%	377
Liberty-Benton Local	1,151	10%	11%	79%	63%	81
McComb Local	891	8%	36%	75%	61%	61

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Hancock County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
174	287	160	170

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Hancock County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

32.2% of babies born in Hancock County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 14.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.3% had all three.

Profile of Hancock County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,007	948
% births to a teen mother	11.6%	12.8%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	12.5%	13.5%
% births to unmarried parents	19.9%	27.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.3%	6.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.3%	13.7%

Hancock County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,906

*241 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	744
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	148
Number of additional children expected to enroll	892

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,095 Hancock County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,372.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 85% of Hancock County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 45% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Hancock County public assistance caseloads dropped by 59% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 9 Hancock County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 55% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	46	55
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	430	154
Number of children receiving cash assistance	867	356
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	60%

Hardin County Children

County seat: Kenton
Population rank: 72

County population: 31,724
Poverty rate: 11.8%
Poverty rank: 34

Child population: 7,912
Child poverty rate: 17.2%
Child poverty rank: 41

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 417 Hardin County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 45% would have passed the test. This means 55%, or 228 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Hardin County Public School Districts: 69% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Kenton City	2,253	36%	44%	61%	45%	158
Riverdale Local	1,170	19%	21%	63%	33%	86
Ada Village	899	14%	24%	82%	60%	57

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Hardin County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
58	81	146	143

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Hardin County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

44.5% of babies born in Hardin County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.3% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.1% had all three.

Profile of Hardin County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	397	412
% births to a teen mother	16.6%	13.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	24.7%	23.8%
% births to unmarried parents	23.4%	29.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	3.8%	6.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	29.4%	21.4%

Hardin County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,107

*148 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	269
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	63
Number of additional children expected to enroll	332

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,960 Hardin County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,439.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 55% of Hardin County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 45% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $68.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Hardin County public assistance caseloads dropped by 76% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 7 Hardin County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 78% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	34	16
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	330	45
Number of children receiving cash assistance	580	145
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	58%	58%

94

Harrison County Children

County seat: Cadiz
Population rank: 84

County population: 16,159
Poverty rate: 15.9%
Poverty rank: 12

Child population: 3,955
Child poverty rate: 25.1%
Child poverty rank: 12

EDUCATION

READING: 67% of the 190 Harrison County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 107 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Harrison County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Harrison Hills City	2,498	81%	67%	66%	46%	150
Conotton Valley Union	584	19%	41%	70%	35%	40

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Harrison County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
71	71	96	94

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Harrison County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

40.5% of babies born in Harrison County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.1% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.4% had all three.

Profile of Harrison County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	205	175
% births to a teen mother	12.2%	12.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.5%	12.0%
% births to unmarried parents	24.4%	33.7%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.8%	6.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.6%	13.2%

Harrison County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	969

*139 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	20
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	24
Number of additional children expected to enroll	44

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,380 Harrison County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,406.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 44% of Harrison County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 37% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $66.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Harrison County public assistance caseloads dropped by 68% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 21 Harrison County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 59% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	38	27
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	397	86
Number of children receiving cash assistance	636	187
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	62%

Henry County Children

County seat: Napoleon
Population rank: 75

County population: 29,893
Poverty rate: 6.2%
Poverty rank: 77

Child population: 8,433
Child poverty rate: 8.7%
Child poverty rank: 78

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 333 Henry County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 52% would have passed the test. This means 48%, or 159 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Henry County Public School Districts: 88% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Napoleon Area City	2,403	44%	22%	67%	54%	153
Patrick Henry Local	1,220	23%	15%	78%	51%	73
Liberty Center Local	1,161	21%	18%	72%	50%	74

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

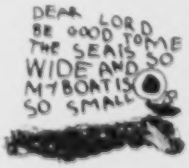
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Henry County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
84	69	63	84

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Henry County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

28.8% of babies born in Henry County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.3% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.7% had all three.

Profile of Henry County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	460	367
% births to a teen mother	12.6%	10.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	14.3%	13.9%
% births to unmarried parents	19.1%	23.4%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.3%	5.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	19.0%	9.5%

Henry County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	760

*119 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	331
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	68
Number of additional children expected to enroll	399

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,317 Henry County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,407.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 49% of Henry County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 45% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $72.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Henry County public assistance caseloads dropped by 75% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 5 Henry County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 63% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	27	8
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	174	31
Number of children receiving cash assistance	357	81
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	56%	65%

Highland County Children

County seat: Hillsboro
Population rank: 61
County population: 39,814
Poverty rate: 12.9%
Poverty rank: 26
Child population: 10,586
Child poverty rate: 18.5%
Child poverty rank: 33

EDUCATION

READING: 66% of the 589 Highland County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 330 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Highland County Public School Districts: 79% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998) % passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Hillsboro City	2,827	35%	44%	68%	46%	182
Greenfield Village	2,371	29%	45%	65%	48%	159
Lynchburg-Clay Local	1,269	16%	34%	74%	44%	101

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

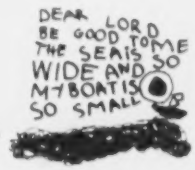
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Highland County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
92	145	280	255

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Highland County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

47.1% of babies born in Highland County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.5% had all three.

Profile of Highland County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	568	562
% births to a teen mother	17.4%	18.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	23.6%	23.8%
% births to unmarried parents	20.6%	32.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.2%	6.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	20.5%	15.3%

Highland County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,776

*238 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	233
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	71
Number of additional children expected to enroll	304

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,036 Highland County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,514.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 56% of Highland County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 42% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $55.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Highland County public assistance caseloads dropped by 67% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 7 Highland County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 81% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	26	32
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	460	82
Number of children receiving cash assistance	959	304
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	51%	41%

Hocking County Children

County seat: Logan
Population rank: 77

County population: 28,755
Poverty rate: 13.0%
Poverty rank: 25

Child population: 7,379
Child poverty rate: 19.4%
Child poverty rank: 27

EDUCATION

READING: 67% of the 278 Hocking County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 46% would have passed the test. This means 54%, or 150 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Hocking County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Logan-Hocking Local	4,277	100%	45%	67%	46%	278

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Hocking County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
78	113	150	273

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Hocking County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

38.4% of babies born in Hocking County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.9% had all three.

Profile of Hocking County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	373	328
% births to a teen mother	20.4%	16.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	17.4%	15.3%
% births to unmarried parents	24.7%	28.7%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	3.5%	4.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	21.9%	21.1%

Hocking County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,648

*262 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	52
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	47
Number of additional children expected to enroll	99

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,036 Hocking County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,473.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 49% of Hocking County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 36% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $38.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Hocking County public assistance caseloads dropped by 53% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 38 Hocking County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 62% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	30	34
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	395	173
Number of children receiving cash assistance	771	379
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	65%	51%

Holmes County Children

County seat: Millersburg
Population rank: 66
County population: 37,373
Poverty rate: 10.6%
Poverty rank: 44
Child population: 13,085
Child poverty rate: 15.4%
Child poverty rank: 47

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 359 Holmes County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 54% would have passed the test. This means 46%, or 166 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Holmes County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
West Holmes Local	2,793	59%	33%	72%	47%	179
East Holmes Local	1,945	41%	24%	78%	60%	180

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Holmes County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
167	58	132	163

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Holmes County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

75.5% of babies born in Holmes County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 5.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 2.0% had all three.

Profile of Holmes County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	750	870
% births to a teen mother	5.3%	4.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	70.7%	69.1%
% births to unmarried parents	6.3%	8.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.0%	4.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	49.3%	52.1%

Holmes County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	825

*136 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	607
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	112
Number of additional children expected to enroll	719

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,338 Holmes County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,377.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 69% of Holmes County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 45% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $46.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Holmes County public assistance caseloads dropped by 53% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 2 Holmes County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 64% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	7	22
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	89	46
Number of children receiving cash assistance	169	85
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	104 51%	63%

Huron County Children

County seat: Norwalk
Population rank: 43

County population: 60,035
Poverty rate: 9.2%
Poverty rank: 54

Child population: 17,116
Child poverty rate: 13.7%
Child poverty rank: 55

EDUCATION

READING: 69% of the 720 Huron County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 401 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law. .

Largest Huron County Public School Districts: 64% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Norwalk City	2,742	23%	44%	69%	42%	175
Willard City	2,475	21%	41%	66%	46%	147
Bellevue City	2,427	20%	26%	76%	49%	133

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Huron County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
318	387	191	268

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Huron County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.3% of babies born in Huron County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.2% had all three.

Profile of Huron County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	953	930
% births to a teen mother	14.3%	13.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.9%	15.3%
% births to unmarried parents	24.7%	33.7%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.5%	6.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	22.1%	17.7%

Huron County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,528

*383 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	413
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	120
Number of additional children expected to enroll	533

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,156 Huron County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,480.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 51% of Huron County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, the same as from 50% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $53.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Huron County public assistance caseloads dropped by 81% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 1 Huron County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 71% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	34	11
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	620	44
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,373	239
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	54%	41%

Jackson County Children

County seat: Jackson
Population rank: 71

County population: 32,404
Poverty rate: 17.5%
Poverty rank: 9

Child population: 8,689
Child poverty rate: 26.1%
Child poverty rank: 8

EDUCATION

READING: 59% of the 369 Jackson County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 36% would have passed the test. This means 64%, or 236 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Jackson County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Jackson City	2,792	47%	48%	66%	43%	176
Wellston City	1,895	32%	69%	40%	21%	102
Oak Hill Union Local	1,298	22%	63%	65%	40%	91

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Jackson County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
252	189	227	235

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Jackson County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

50.8% of babies born in Jackson County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 22.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 10.0% had all three.

Profile of Jackson County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	423	429
% births to a teen mother	19.6%	21.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	29.1%	25.9%
% births to unmarried parents	25.1%	35.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.6%	5.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	28.0%	14.4%

Jackson County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,365

*338 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	4
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	52
Number of additional children expected to enroll	56

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,571 Jackson County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,523.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 37% of Jackson County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 45% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $46.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Jackson County public assistance caseloads dropped by 56% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 30 Jackson County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 80% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	40	60
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	670	217
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,406	620
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	54%	53%

Jefferson County Children

County seat: Steubenville
Population rank: 34
County population: 76,014
Poverty rate: 15.5%
Poverty rank: 16
Child population: 17,435
Child poverty rate: 25.1%
Child poverty rank: 12

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 732 Jefferson County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 59% would have passed the test. This means 41%, or 302 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Jefferson County Public School Districts: 72% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Edison Local	2,875	24%	51%	83%	61%	187
Buckeye Local	2,841	24%	57%	70%	45%	175
Steubenville City	2,763	23%	79%	87%	72%	157

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Jefferson County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
314	411	423	481

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Jefferson County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

43.1% of babies born in Jefferson County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.4% had all three.

Profile of Jefferson County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	832	787
% births to a teen mother	16.3%	14.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	17.8%	16.4%
% births to unmarried parents	29.3%	36.7%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.1%	6.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	25.9%	17.5%

Jefferson County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	4,844

*448 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	304
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	113
Number of additional children expected to enroll	417

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,131 Jefferson County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,388.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 29% of Jefferson County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 16% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $73.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Jefferson County public assistance caseloads dropped by 48% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 321 Jefferson County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 55% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	193	248
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	2,205	1,026
Number of children receiving cash assistance	3,635	1,946
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	69%	58%

Knox County Children

County seat: Mount Vernon
Population rank: 47

County population: 52,498
Poverty rate: 9.9%
Poverty rank: 49

Child population: 12,716
Child poverty rate: 15.0%
Child poverty rank: 49

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 505 Knox County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 49% would have passed the test. This means 51%, or 257 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Knox County Public School Districts: 80% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Mount Vernon City	4,322	52%	60%	74%	50%	255
Fredericktown Local	1,303	16%	27%	78%	54%	80
East Knox Local	1,059	13%	33%	75%	48%	67

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Knox County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
307	233	234	231

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Knox County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

36.9% of babies born in Knox County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.1% had all three.

Profile of Knox County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	604	606
% births to a teen mother	11.4%	11.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	21.7%	18.2%
% births to unmarried parents	21.0%	23.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.1%	6.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	19.1%	15.3%

Knox County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,138

*373 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	285
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	99
Number of additional children expected to enroll	384

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,827 Knox County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,428.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life." 48% of Knox County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 61% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $61.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Knox County public assistance caseloads dropped by 42% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 28 Knox County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 81% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	41	68
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	401	230
Number of children receiving cash assistance	820	464
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	72%	47%

Lake County Children

County seat: Painesville
Population rank: 12
County population: 223,715
Poverty rate: 5.7%
Poverty rank: 82
Child population: 54,224
Child poverty rate: 8.6%
Child poverty rank: 79

EDUCATION

READING: 79% of the 2,374 Lake County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 59% would have passed the test. This means 41%, or 969 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Lake County Public School Districts: 69% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Mentor Village	11,042	31%	23%	80%	59%	735
Willoughby-Eastlake City	9,279	26%	38%	77%	59%	586
Painesville Township	3,947	11%	25%	86%	65%	305

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

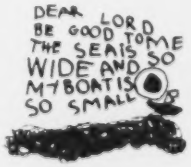
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Lake County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
454	609	472	455

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Lake County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

25.0% of babies born in Lake County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 9.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.5% had all three.

Profile of Lake County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	3,041	2,754
% births to a teen mother	6.4%	7.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	8.1%	9.3%
% births to unmarried parents	14.8%	21.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.4%	6.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	6.8%	6.9%

Lake County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	4,502
510 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.	

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	2,550
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	460
Number of additional children expected to enroll	3,010

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 8,598 Lake County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,294.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 43% of Lake County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 60% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $64.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Lake County public assistance caseloads dropped by 54% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 100 Lake County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 55% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	96	172
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,283	530
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,639	1,278
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	69%	57%

Lawrence County Children

County seat: Ironton
Population rank: 39

County population: 64,485
Poverty rate: 19.9%
Poverty rank: 5

Child population: 16,996
Child poverty rate: 31.8%
Child poverty rank: 3

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 777 Lawrence County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 45% would have passed the test. This means 55%, or 425 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Lawrence County Public School Districts: 52% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
South Point Local	2,221	19%	52%	71%	47%	141
Rock Hill Local	2,080	17%	77%	51%	29%	161
Ironton City	1,925	16%	62%	77%	50%	113

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Lawrence County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
231	454	469	553

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Lawrence County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.4% of babies born in Lawrence County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 2.6% had all three.

Profile of Lawrence County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	864	780
% births to a teen mother	17.6%	17.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	29.6%	20.9%
% births to unmarried parents	27.4%	30.8%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.3%	7.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	17.3%	8.5%

Lawrence County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	6,456

*767 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	88
Number of additional children expected to enroll	88

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,230 Lawrence County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,556.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 22% of Lawrence County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $53.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Lawrence County public assistance caseloads dropped by 40% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 305 Lawrence County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 78% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	137	215
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,947	1,118
Number of children receiving cash assistance	4,001	2,448
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	56%	55%

Licking County Children

County seat: Newark
Population rank: 19

County population: 139,411
Poverty rate: 9.5%
Poverty rank: 52

Child population: 35,628
Child poverty rate: 14.8%
Child poverty rank: 50

EDUCATION

READING: 73% of the 1,649 Licking County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 50% would have passed the test. This means 50%, or 829 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Licking County Public School Districts: 55% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Newark City	7,651	32%	56%	67%	44%	486
Southwest Licking Local	3,125	13%	24%	75%	46%	208
Lakewood Local	2,433	10%	40%	70%	47%	153

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Licking County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
403	531	514	514

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Licking County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

35.0% of babies born in Licking County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 15.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.4% had all three.

Profile of Licking County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,757	1,925
% births to a teen mother	13.6%	13.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	17.3%	14%
% births to unmarried parents	22.5%	29.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.3%	6.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.4%	9.6%

Licking County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	5,374

*736 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,039
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	267
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,306

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 7,512 Licking County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,442.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 56% of Licking County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 26% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $33.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Licking County public assistance caseloads dropped by 52% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 104 Licking County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 59% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	115	194
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,483	661
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,842	1,425
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	52%

Logan County Children

County seat: Bellefontaine
Population rank: 52

County population: 45,937
Poverty rate: 9.6%
Poverty rank: 51

Child population: 12,365
Child poverty rate: 14.1%
Child poverty rank: 53

EDUCATION

READING: 67% of the 547 Logan County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 292 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Logan County Public School Districts: 89% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Bellefontaine City	3,042	38%	42%	66%	45%	202
Indian Lake Local	2,129	26%	43%	63%	40%	147
Benjamin Logan Local	2,030	25%	20%	74%	57%	145

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Logan County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
385	88	142	145

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Logan County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

44.1% of babies born in Logan County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.0% had all three.

Profile of Logan County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	681	604
% births to a teen mother	17.3%	16.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.1%	17.2%
% births to unmarried parents	24.1%	33%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.3%	7.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.2%	17.6%

Logan County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,716

*210 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	380
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	89
Number of additional children expected to enroll	469

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,827 Logan County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,456.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 40% of Logan County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 33% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Logan County public assistance caseloads dropped by 65% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 32 Logan County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 67% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	57	51
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	540	162
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,028	339
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	61%	58%

120

Lorain County Children

County seat: Elyria
Population rank: 9

County population: 282,465
Poverty rate: 10.4%
Poverty rank: 47

Child population: 75,887
Child poverty rate: 16.3%
Child poverty rank: 43

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 3,024 Lorain County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 1,595 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Lorain County Public School Districts: 51% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Lorain City	10,736	23%	86%	49%	27%	658
Elyria City	8,953	19%	66%	70%	49%	606
Amherst Village	3,661	8%	13%	88%	70%	223

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Lorain County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
1,108	1,444	1,547	1,578

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Lorain County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

43.7% of babies born in Lorain County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.1% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.1% had all three.

Profile of Lorain County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	4,198	3,886
% births to a teen mother	14.6%	15.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.9%	19.5%
% births to unmarried parents	30.0%	38.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.1%	6.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	22.1%	16.4%

Lorain County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	13,709

*1,177 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	2,496
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	552
Number of additional children expected to enroll	3,048

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 15,944 Lorain County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,484.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 28% of Lorain County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $60.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Lorain County public assistance caseloads dropped by 50% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 373 Lorain County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 49% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	352	670
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	4,333	2,024
Number of children receiving cash assistance	9,643	4,987
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	59%	46%

Lucas County Children

County seat: Toledo
Population rank: 6

County population: 451,325
Poverty rate: 14.4%
Poverty rank: 20

Child population: 118,224
Child poverty rate: 23.4%
Child poverty rank: 18

EDUCATION

READING: 59% of the 4,767 Lucas County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 39% would have passed the test. This means 61%, or 2,911 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Lucas County Public School Districts: 79% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Toledo City	39,557	57%	88%	43%	24%	2,685
Sylvania City	7,806	11%	21%	82%	65%	531
Washington Local	7,505	11%	47%	72%	48%	514

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

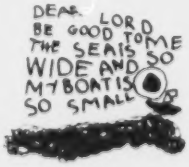
High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Lucas County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
899	2,817	2,553	3,177

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).



FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Lucas County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

48.2% of babies born in Lucas County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 22.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.8% had all three.

Profile of Lucas County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	8,128	6,579
% births to a teen mother	16.2%	15.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	21.3%	20.9%
% births to unmarried parents	39.5%	44.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.6%	8.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	21.6%	13.4%

Lucas County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	33,411

*1,976 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	2,893
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	732
Number of additional children expected to enroll	3,625

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 30,430 Lucas County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,462.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 30% of Lucas County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $56.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Lucas County public assistance caseloads dropped by 37% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 2,197 Lucas County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 50% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	1,146	2,057
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	11,739	7,054
Number of children receiving cash assistance	25,556	16,872
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	58%	53%

Madison County Children

County seat: London
Population rank: 54

County population: 41,486
Poverty rate: 8.5%
Poverty rank: 59

Child population: 9,836
Child poverty rate: 11.7%
Child poverty rank: 62

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 468 Madison County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 45% would have passed the test. This means 55%, or 256 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Madison County Public School Districts: 81% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
London City	2,183	31%	54%	61%	38%	131
Madison-Plains Local	1,737	25%	25%	71%	50%	111
Jonathan Alder Local	1,709	24%	25%	76%	52%	137

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Madison County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
94	96	160	128

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Madison County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

35.9% of babies born in Madison County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.3% had all three.

Profile of Madison County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	524	493
% births to a teen mother	13.9%	15.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.3%	19.0%
% births to unmarried parents	22.1%	27.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.6%	6.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	15.2%	12.3%

Madison County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,130

*176 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	327
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	76
Number of additional children expected to enroll	403

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,309 Madison County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,418.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 37% of Madison County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 48% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $62.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Madison County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 17 Madison County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 72% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	21	44
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	303	113
Number of children receiving cash assistance	578	268
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	56%	53%

Mahoning County Children

County seat: Youngstown
Population rank: 10
County population: 257,489
Poverty rate: 15.3%
Poverty rank: 17
Child population: 62,331
Child poverty rate: 25.1%
Child poverty rank: 12

EDUCATION

READING: 66% of the 2,613 Mahoning County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 48% would have passed the test. This means 52%, or 1,351 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Mahoning County Public School Districts: 57% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Youngstown City	12,829	31%	93%	35%	21%	815
Boardman Local	5,284	13%	28%	87%	72%	321
Austintown Local	5,277	13%	39%	81%	63%	313

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Mahoning County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
942	1,787	1,692	2,136

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Mahoning County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

44.4% of babies born in Mahoning County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.7% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.2% had all three.

Profile of Mahoning County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	3,660	3,010
% births to a teen mother	14.6%	14.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.1%	17.1%
% births to unmarried parents	34.2%	41.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.4%	9.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	23.8%	22.7%

Mahoning County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	17,747

*1,371 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,240
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	392
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,632

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 17,316 Mahoning County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,440.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 35% of Mahoning County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 16% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $37.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Mahoning County public assistance caseloads dropped by 42% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 1,084 Mahoning County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 55% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	509	988
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	6,289	3,352
Number of children receiving cash assistance	13,651	8,124
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	67%	58%

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Marion County Children

County seat: Marion
Population rank: 38

County population: 65,115
Poverty rate: 12.0%
Poverty rank: 31

Child population: 16,818
Child poverty rate: 18.4%
Child poverty rank: 35

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 775 Marion County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 433 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Marion County Public School Districts: 80% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Marion City	6,177	50%	62%	56%	33%	395
River Valley Local	1,841	15%	26%	74%	53%	108
Elgin Local	1,723	14%	32%	77%	54%	107

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Marion County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
320	267	346	396

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Marion County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

48.0% of babies born in Marion County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 22.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.8% had all three.

Profile of Marion County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	990	844
% births to a teen mother	19.0%	19.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	27.1%	15.3%
% births to unmarried parents	28.7%	36.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.6%	6.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	26.9%	22.4%

Marion County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	3,179

*353 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	400
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	113
Number of additional children expected to enroll	513

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,477 Marion County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,483.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 32% of Marion County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 39% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $55.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Marion County public assistance caseloads dropped by 55% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 33 Marion County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 53% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	59	78
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	736	240
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,790	851
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	54%	48%

Medina County Children

County seat: Medina
Population rank: 16

County population: 141,961
Poverty rate: 4.2%
Poverty rank: 88

Child population: 39,170
Child poverty rate: 6.8%
Child poverty rank: 87

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 1,862 Medina County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 59% would have passed the test. This means 41%, or 771 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Medina County Public School Districts: 63% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Brunswick City	6,833	26%	31%	76%	57%	462
Medina City	5,952	22%	16%	83%	59%	395
Wadsworth City	4,117	15%	25%	85%	62%	315

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Medina County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
301	331	202	249

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Medina County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

20.4% of babies born in Medina County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 7.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 2.8% had all three.

Profile of Medina County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,702	1,831
% births to a teen mother	6.9%	6.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	8.9%	8.8%
% births to unmarried parents	13.2%	15.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.4%	6.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	11.3%	7.9%

Medina County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,852

*397 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,744
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	322
Number of additional children expected to enroll	2,066

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,587 Medina County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,340.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 53% of Medina County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 43% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $83.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Medina County public assistance caseloads dropped by 48% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 50 Medina County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 50% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	54	89
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	638	318
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,235	656
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	69%	56%

Meigs County Children

County seat: Pomeroy
Population rank: 81

County population: 23,994
Poverty rate: 21.4%
Poverty rank: 1

Child population: 6,257
Child poverty rate: 33.0%
Child poverty rank: 2

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 249 Meigs County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 37% would have passed the test. This means 63%, or 157 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Meigs County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Meigs Local	2,506	60%	71%	71%	42%	143
Southern Local	866	21%	66%	45%	22%	55
Eastern Local	830	20%	44%	69%	39%	51

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Meigs County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
141	154	266	194

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Meigs County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

51.3% of babies born in Meigs County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 23.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.0% had all three.

Profile of Meigs County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	310	267
% births to a teen mother	18.7%	22.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	34.5%	25.5%
% births to unmarried parents	27.4%	38.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.8%	8.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	30.0%	18%

Meigs County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,210

*218 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	31
Number of additional children expected to enroll	31

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,766 Meigs County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,515.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 34% of Meigs County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 25% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $48.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Meigs County public assistance caseloads dropped by 50% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 118 Meigs County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 69% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	55	140
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	859	413
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,445	722
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	53%	48%

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Mercer County Children

County seat: Celina
Population rank: 56

County population: 40,984
Poverty rate: 6.1%
Poverty rank: 79

Child population: 12,373
Child poverty rate: 7.9%
Child poverty rank: 83

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 666 Mercer County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 59% would have passed the test. This means 41%, or 271 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Mercer County Public School Districts: 68% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Celina City	3,729	38%	26%	72%	53%	212
Coldwater Village	1,697	17%	13%	88%	71%	129
Parkway Local	1,240	13%	22%	75%	47%	89

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Mercer County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
172	85	171	154

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Mercer County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

26.3% of babies born in Mercer County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.6% had all three.

Profile of Mercer County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	732	558
% births to a teen mother	8.5%	10.8%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	11.3%	13.8%
% births to unmarried parents	12.6%	21.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.0%	3.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	10.9%	9.3%

Mercer County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	957

*157 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	549
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	106
Number of additional children expected to enroll	655

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,658 Mercer County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,386.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 49% of Mercer County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 42% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $60.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Mercer County public assistance caseloads dropped by 61% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 4 Mercer County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	20	26
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	172	57
Number of children receiving cash assistance	364	134
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	58%	40%

Miami County Children

County seat: Troy
Population rank: 27

County population: 97,742
Poverty rate: 7.2%
Poverty rank: 68

Child population: 25,337
Child poverty rate: 11.5%
Child poverty rank: 63

EDUCATION

READING: 74% of the 1,212 Miami County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 54% would have passed the test. This means 46%, or 563 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Miami County Public School Districts: 64% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997), % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998) % passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Troy City	4,805	27%	31%	73%	52%	310
Piqua City	4,145	23%	42%	62%	40%	275
Tipp City Village	2,626	14%	10%	83%	66%	191

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Miami County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
217	242	286	262

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Miami County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

35.2% of babies born in Miami County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.1% had all three.

Profile of Miami County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,280	1,258
% births to a teen mother	14.2%	13.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.4%	15.7%
% births to unmarried parents	20.5%	28.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.7%	5.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	13.5%	13.8%

Miami County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,545

*343 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	993
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	201
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,194

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,399 Miami County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,437.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 37% of Miami County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 27% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $80.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Miami County public assistance caseloads dropped by 75% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 2 Miami County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 53% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	54	42
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	753	93
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,557	375
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	59%	63%

Monroe County Children

County seat: Woodsfield
Population rank: 85
County population: 15,331
Poverty rate: 17.4%
Poverty rank: 10
Child population: 3,795
Child poverty rate: 25.5%
Child poverty rank: 10

EDUCATION

READING: 63% of the 199 Monroe County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 43% would have passed the test. This means 57%, or 113 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Monroe County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Switzerland of Ohio Local	3,064	100%	66%	63%	43%	199

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Monroe County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
N/A	15	67	61

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Monroe County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

36.2% of babies born in Monroe County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 8.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 2.0% had all three.

Profile of Monroe County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	156	149
% births to a teen mother	10.9%	9.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.9%	16.1%
% births to unmarried parents	13.5%	23.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	2.6%	5.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	21.3%	17.6%

Monroe County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,009

*157 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	9
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	25
Number of additional children expected to enroll	34

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,071 Monroe County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,444.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 84% of Monroe County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 62% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $39.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Monroe County public assistance caseloads dropped by 55% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 47 Monroe County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 61% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	27	25
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	304	128
Number of children receiving cash assistance	477	236
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	62%	52%

Montgomery County Children

County seat: Dayton
Population rank: 4

County population: 561,303
Poverty rate: 11.9%
Poverty rank: 32

Child population: 137,596
Child poverty rate: 20.2%
Child poverty rank: 25

EDUCATION

READING: 62% of the 6,002 Montgomery County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 41% would have passed the test. This means 59%, or 3,520 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Montgomery County Public School Districts: 49% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Dayton City	25,946	30%	75%	38%	19%	1,868
Kettering City	8,062	9%	22%	83%	62%	615
Huber Heights City	7,526	9%	30%	69%	45%	529

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Montgomery County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
1,881	3,361	2,859	3,294

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Montgomery County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

43.6% of babies born in Montgomery County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.6% had all three.

Profile of Montgomery County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	9,169	7,780
% births to a teen mother	14.5%	13.8%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.5%	20.1%
% births to unmarried parents	34.9%	38.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.0%	8.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.6%	14.8%

Montgomery County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid 27,583

*1,687 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	4,789
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	973
Number of additional children expected to enroll	5,762

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 36,739 Montgomery County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,441.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 48% of Montgomery County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 18% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $71.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Montgomery County public assistance caseloads dropped by 48% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 755 Montgomery County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 61% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	703	1,121
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	8,993	4,197
Number of children receiving cash assistance	21,990	11,556
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	59%	45%

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Morgan County Children

County seat: McConnelsville
Population rank: 86
County population: 14,615
Poverty rate: 15.7%
Poverty rank: 14
Child population: 4,069
Child poverty rate: 23.3%
Child poverty rank: 19

EDUCATION

READING: 66% of the 174 Morgan County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 40% would have passed the test. This means 60%, or 105 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Morgan County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Morgan Local	2,657	100%	56%	66%	40%	174

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Morgan County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
91	80	104	101

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and f. milies participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Morgan County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

50.3% of babies born in Morgan County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 23.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.9% had all three.

Profile of Morgan County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	205	151
% births to a teen mother	17.1%	22.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	15.1%	23.2%
% births to unmarried parents	20.0%	38.4%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.9%	8.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	15.7%	25.8%

Morgan County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,236

*178 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	24
Number of additional children expected to enroll	24

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 995 Morgan County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,552.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 54% of Morgan County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 48% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $50.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Morgan County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 20 Morgan County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 73% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	37	31
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	341	103
Number of children receiving cash assistance	637	257
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	62%	53%

144

Morrow County Children

County seat: Mt. Gilead
Population rank: 73
County population: 31,080
Poverty rate: 10.4%
Poverty rank: 47
Child population: 8,754
Child poverty rate: 16.4%
Child poverty rank: 42

EDUCATION

READING: 60% of the 384 Morrow County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 41% would have passed the test. This means 59%, or 227 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Morrow County Public School Districts: 79% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Highland Local	1,713	31%	44%	68%	51%	107
Mount Gilead Village	1,425	26%	36%	55%	31%	93
Northmor Local	1,261	23%	41%	65%	47%	102

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Morrow County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
196	144	76	76

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Morrow County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

40.6% of babies born in Morrow County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 13.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.5% had all three.

Profile of Morrow County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	410	372
% births to a teen mother	15.1%	14.8%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	26.3%	20.2%
% births to unmarried parents	22.2%	25.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.9%	7.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	26.2%	15.4%

Morrow County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,312

*193 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	216
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	62
Number of additional children expected to enroll	278

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,396 Morrow County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,528.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 41% of Morrow County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 33% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $60.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Morrow County public assistance caseloads dropped by 56% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 17 Morrow County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 49% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	19	47
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	399	130
Number of children receiving cash assistance	718	326
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	55%	60%

Muskingum County Children

County seat: Zanesville
Population rank: 31

County population: 84,539
Poverty rate: 14.2%
Poverty rank: 22

Child population: 22,038
Child poverty rate: 22.2%
Child poverty rank: 22

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 1,071 Muskingum County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 44% would have passed the test. This means 56%, or 597 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Muskingum County Public School Districts: 61% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Zanesville City	4,694	28%	72%	55%	35%	287
Tri-Valley Local	2,974	18%	23%	76%	51%	203
Franklin Local	2,556	15%	37%	58%	38%	161

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Muskingum County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
425	706	435	445

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Muskingum County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

45.4% of babies born in Muskingum County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.2% had all three.

Profile of Muskingum County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,248	1,166
% births to a teen mother	15.9%	16.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.4%	18.5%
% births to unmarried parents	30.1%	39.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birtnweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.0%	8.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.6%	10%

Muskingum County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	6,149

*786 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	155
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	142
Number of additional children expected to enroll	297

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 6,779 Muskingum County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,514.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 42% of Muskingum County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 22% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $59.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Muskingum County public assistance caseloads dropped by 37% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 159 Muskingum County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 52% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	106	232
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,385	906
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,858	1,879
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	64%	49%

143

Noble County Children

County seat: Caldwell
Population rank: 87

County population: 12,304
Poverty rate: 14.5%
Poverty rank: 19

Child population: 3,446
Child poverty rate: 21.3%
Child poverty rank: 24

EDUCATION

READING: 67% of the 162 Noble County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 46% would have passed the test. This means 54%, or 87 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Noble County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Noble Local	1,332	52%	39%	64%	40%	89
Caldwell Village	1,247	48%	43%	71%	53%	73

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Noble County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
31	33	76	98

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Noble County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

41.3% of babies born in Noble County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.0% had all three.

Profile of Noble County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	152	126
% births to a teen mother	16.4%	13.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	13.8%	15.1%
% births to unmarried parents	23.0%	28.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.3%	7.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.5%	18.3%

Noble County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	713

*136 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	11
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	22
Number of additional children expected to enroll	33

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 665 Noble County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,454.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 39% of Noble County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, the same as from 39% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $61.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Noble County public assistance caseloads dropped by 70% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 13 Noble County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 67% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	29	14
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	221	59
Number of children receiving cash assistance	346	119
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	67%	51%

150

Ottawa County Children

County seat: Port Clinton
Population rank: 58
County population: 40,651
Poverty rate: 6.8%
Poverty rank: 74
Child population: 9,773
Child poverty rate: 10.4%
Child poverty rank: 71

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 443 Ottawa County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 60% would have passed the test. This means 40%, or 177 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Ottawa County Public School Districts: 90% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Port Clinton City	2,272	35%	35%	80%	59%	138
Benton Carroll Salem	2,007	30%	21%	85%	66%	117
Genoa Area Local	1,651	25%	17%	74%	54%	125

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Ottawa County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
45	88	118	115

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Ottawa County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

30.3% of babies born in Ottawa County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.9% had all three.

Profile of Ottawa County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	478	425
% births to a teen mother	13.4%	10.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	14.9%	10.8%
% births to unmarried parents	19.9%	25.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.3%	4.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.4%	10.4%

Ottawa County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid 1,065

*152 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	355
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	76
Number of additional children expected to enroll	431

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,957 Ottawa County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,417.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 40% of Ottawa County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 36% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $71.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Ottawa County public assistance caseloads dropped by 58% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 6 Ottawa County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 51% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	24	29
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	241	92
Number of children receiving cash assistance	456	182
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	64%	43%

Paulding County Children

County seat: Paulding
Population rank: 83

County population: 20,157
Poverty rate: 7.6%
Poverty rank: 64

Child population: 5,853
Child poverty rate: 11.0%
Child poverty rank: 67

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 278 Paulding County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 55% would have passed the test. This means 45%, or 125 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Paulding County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Paulding Village	2,115	50%	27%	71%	55%	139
Wayne Trace Local	1,283	30%	61%	74%	49%	87
Antwerp Local	845	20%	22%	89%	63%	52

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Paulding County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
77	26	63	41

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Paulding County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

44.4% of babies born in Paulding County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.1% had all three.

Profile of Paulding County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	276	196
% births to a teen mother	15.2%	16.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	21.0%	18.9%
% births to unmarried parents	23.6%	33.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.8%	7.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	22.1%	17.3%

Paulding County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	515

*73 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	236
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	47
Number of additional children expected to enroll	283

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 985 Paulding County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,403.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 41% of Paulding County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 58% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $98.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Paulding County public assistance caseloads dropped by 70% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 4 Paulding County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 71% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	12	11
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	165	29
Number of children receiving cash assistance	291	82
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	72%

Perry County Children

County seat:
New Lexington
Population rank: 69

County population: 34,144
Poverty rate: 16.0%
Poverty rank: 11

Child population: 9,627
Child poverty rate: 24.1%
Child poverty rank: 16

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 407 Perry County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 43% would have passed the test. This means 57%, or 230 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Perry County Public School Districts: 83% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Northern Local	2,368	36%	39%	73%	53%	150
New Lexington City	2,068	31%	67%	61%	34%	107
Crooksville Village	1,123	17%	61%	59%	45%	71

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Perry County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
184	173	274	159

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Perry County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

45.4% of babies born in Perry County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 19.7% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.6% had all three.

Profile of Perry County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	508	467
% births to a teen mother	17.7%	18.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.3%	22.1%
% births to unmarried parents	26.4%	33%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.1%	9.9%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	22.8%	17.2%

Perry County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,408

*310 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	66
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	57
Number of additional children expected to enroll	123

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,683 Perry County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,447.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 26% of Perry County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, the same as from 26% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $65.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Perry County public assistance caseloads dropped by 47% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 71 Perry County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 56% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	46	83
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	787	335
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,467	771
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	58%	52%

Pickaway County Children

County seat: Circleville
Population rank: 46
County population: 53,218
Poverty rate: 11.0%
Poverty rank: 41
Child population: 12,370
Child poverty rate: 15.8%
Child poverty rank: 44

EDUCATION

READING: 69% of the 673 Pickaway County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 46% would have passed the test. This means 54%, or 365 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Pickaway County Public School Districts: 81% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Teays Valley Local	2,820	30%	31%	74%	49%	201
Circleville City	2,524	27%	44%	69%	48%	190
Logan Elm Local	2,348	25%	23%	64%	41%	148

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Pickaway County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
126	144	230	247

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Pickaway County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

37.9% of babies born in Pickaway County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.4% had all three.

Profile of Pickaway County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	641	580
% births to a teen mother	14.5%	16.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	17.6%	17.2%
% births to unmarried parents	20.7%	29.7%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.6%	7.2%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.1%	10.4%

Pickaway County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,180

*279 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	322
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	91
Number of additional children expected to enroll	413

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,391 Pickaway County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,473.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 58% of Pickaway County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 53% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $53.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Pickaway County public assistance caseloads dropped by 42% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 60 Pickaway County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 50% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	36	83
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	529	303
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,097	661
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	54%	45%

Pike County Children

County seat: Waverly
Population rank: 80

County population: 27,565
Poverty rate: 19.5%
Poverty rank: 6

Child population: 7,705
Child poverty rate: 29.6%
Child poverty rank: 4

EDUCATION

READING: 57% of the 364 Pike County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 35% would have passed the test. This means 65%, or 237 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Pike County Public School Districts: 83% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Waverly City	2,155	37%	46%	63%	39%	134
Scioto Valley Local	1,614	28%	58%	51%	30%	103
Eastern Local	1,050	18%	51%	57%	33%	70

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Pike County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
183	69	240	252

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Pike County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

50.7% of babies born in Pike County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 22.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.4% had all three.

Profile of Pike County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	397	357
% births to a teen mother	25.2%	19.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	34.8%	29.5%
% births to unmarried parents	28.5%	33.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.3%	7.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.9%	15.5%

Pike County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,665

*380 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	36
Number of additional children expected to enroll	36

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,193 Pike County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,550.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 25% of Pike County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 18% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $53.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Pike County public assistance caseloads dropped by 47% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 83 Pike County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 52% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	59	83
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	756	367
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,593	834
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	51%	34%

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Portage County Children

County seat: Ravenna
Population rank: 14
County population: 150,792
Poverty rate: 8.9%
Poverty rank: 56
Child population: 36,874
Child poverty rate: 12.9%
Child poverty rank: 59

EDUCATION

READING: 77% of the 1,588 Portage County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 55% would have passed the test. This means 45%, or 713 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Portage County Public School Districts: 42% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Kent City	4,181	17%	59%	84%	64%	256
Ravenna City	3,375	14%	58%	72%	47%	206
Crestwood Local	2,800	11%	23%	81%	64%	175

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Portage County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
206	439	376	367

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Portage County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.5% of babies born in Portage County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.9% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.6% had all three.

Profile of Portage County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,986	1,837
% births to a teen mother	10.7%	9.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	13.9%	11.3%
% births to unmarried parents	21.5%	29.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.8%	7.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	14.1%	10.4%

Portage County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	4,479

*514 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,549
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	310
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,859

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 7,051 Portage County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,386.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 18% of Portage County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 23% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $27.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Portage County public assistance caseloads dropped by 69% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 75 Portage County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 56% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	119	123
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,536	377
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,998	865
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	68%	59%

Preble County Children

County seat: Eaton
Population rank: 53

County population: 42,862
Poverty rate: 8.0%
Poverty rank: 61

Child population: 11,453
Child poverty rate: 12.7%
Child poverty rank: 60

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 583 Preble County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 41% would have passed the test. This means 59%, or 343 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Preble County Public School Districts: 71% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Eaton City	2,400	30%	30%	72%	48%	159
Preble-Shawnee Local	1,935	24%	36%	69%	45%	140
C R Coblentz Local	1,387	17%	N/A	72%	40%	109

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Preble County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
93	79	191	179

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Preble County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.0% of babies born in Preble County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.7% had all three.

Profile of Preble County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	566	477
% births to a teen mother	13.6%	15.5%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.8%	13.9%
% births to unmarried parents	17.8%	25.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.4%	7.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	17.1%	15.9%

Preble County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	1,240

*166 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	420
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	88
Number of additional children expected to enroll	508

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,129 Preble County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,477.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 32% of Preble County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 38% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $61.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Preble County public assistance caseloads dropped by 65% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 3 Preble County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 96% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	21	36
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	298	95
Number of children receiving cash assistance	666	211
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	57%	46%

Putnam County Children

County seat: Ottawa
Population rank: 68

County population: 35,080
Poverty rate: 5.7%
Poverty rank: 82

Child population: 10,837
Child poverty rate: 7.6%
Child poverty rank: 85

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 440 Putnam County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 61% would have passed the test. This means 39%, or 171 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Putnam County Public School Districts: 48% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Ottawa-Glandorf Local	1,828	24%	12%	79%	64%	107
Continental Local	918	12%	28%	66%	45%	53
Columbus Grove Local	915	12%	21%	84%	68%	44

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Putnam County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
N/A	65	78	68

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Putnam County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

21.9% of babies born in Putnam County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 8.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.6% had all three.

Profile of Putnam County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	593	503
% births to a teen mother	8.3%	7.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	9.9%	8.7%
% births to unmarried parents	12.5%	17.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.7%	5.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	17.2%	11.6%

Putnam County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	666

*91 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	517
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	92
Number of additional children expected to enroll	609

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,224 Putnam County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,365.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 61% of Putnam County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 49% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $79.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Putnam County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 5 Putnam County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 64% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	30	24
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	222	76
Number of children receiving cash assistance	401	166
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	44%	50%

Richland County Children

County seat: Mansfield
Population rank: 20

County population: 127,762
Poverty rate: 11.4%
Poverty rank: 37

Child population: 32,213
Child poverty rate: 17.8%
Child poverty rank: 37

EDUCATION

READING: 62% of the 1,486 Richland County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 40% would have passed the test. This means 60%, or 889 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Richland County Public School Districts: 60% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998) % passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Mansfield City	6,235	28%	69%	44%	24%	424
Madison Local	4,256	19%	39%	55%	33%	227
Lexington Local	2,960	13%	13%	71%	46%	194

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Richland County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
588	875	614	614

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Richland County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

46.9% of babies born in Richland County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 9.4% had all three.

Profile of Richland County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,882	1,676
% births to a teen mother	16.7%	16.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	22.8%	22.0%
% births to unmarried parents	29.4%	37.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.4%	8.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	34.6%	18.7%

Richland County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	6,262

*669 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	850
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	273
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,123

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 8,351 Richland County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,471.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 35% of Richland County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 19% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $57.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Richland County public assistance caseloads dropped by 57% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 104 Richland County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 56% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	116	178
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,836	726
Number of children receiving cash assistance	3,961	1,774
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	62%	49%

163

Ross County Children

County seat: Chillicothe
Population rank: 35

County population: 75,195
Poverty rate: 15.1%
Poverty rank: 18

Child population: 18,161
Child poverty rate: 22.6%
Child poverty rank: 20

EDUCATION

READING: 65% of the 842 Ross County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 41% would have passed the test. This means 59%, or 495 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Ross County Public School Districts: 58% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Chillicothe City	3,806	31%	55%	62%	38%	234
Union-Scioto Local	1,792	15%	38%	64%	41%	155
Zane Trace Local	1,485	12%	24%	68%	42%	114

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Ross County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
213	311	319	371

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible.
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Ross County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

45.3% of babies born in Ross County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.5% had all three.

Profile of Ross County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	918	961
% births to a teen mother	15.8%	17.9%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	22.3%	21.1%
% births to unmarried parents	26.8%	35.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.4%	8.8%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.0%	10.4%

Ross County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	4,368

*494 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	265
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	114
Number of additional children expected to enroll	379

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,955 Ross County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,501.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 47% of Ross County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 18% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $55.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Ross County public assistance caseloads dropped by 54% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 146 Ross County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 56% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	114	127
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,300	514
Number of children receiving cash assistance	2,460	1,232
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	55%	50%

Sandusky County Children

County seat: Fremont
Population rank: 41

County population: 62,296
Poverty rate: 8.9%
Poverty rank: 56

Child population: 17,076
Child poverty rate: 13.1%
Child poverty rank: 56

EDUCATION

READING: 70% of the 688 Sandusky County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 47% would have passed the test. This means 53%, or 367 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Sandusky County Public School Districts: 79% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Fremont City	5,210	45%	46%	70%	46%	308
Clyde-Green Springs	2,410	21%	35%	76%	49%	161
Lakota Local	1,519	13%	27%	70%	46%	84

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Sandusky County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
285	235	239	253

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Sandusky County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

46.2% of babies born in Sandusky County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 20.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.8% had all three.

Profile of Sandusky County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	888	860
% births to a teen mother	14.3%	16.4%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.5%	18.5%
% births to unmarried parents	25.7%	40.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.1%	8.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.6%	14.2%

Sandusky County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,153

*258 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	532
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	119
Number of additional children expected to enroll	651

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,245 Sandusky County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,426.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 24% of Sandusky County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 32% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $68.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Sandusky County public assistance caseloads dropped by 79% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 7 Sandusky County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 65% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	300	49
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	1,028	101
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,989	384
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	39%	53%

Scioto County Children

County seat: Portsmouth
Population rank: 32
County population: 80,756
Poverty rate: 21.4%
Poverty rank: 1
Child population: 21,349
Child poverty rate: 34.2%
Child poverty rank: 1

EDUCATION

READING: 64% of the 1,023 Scioto County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 42% would have passed the test. This means 58%, or 597 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Scioto County Public School Districts: 47% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Portsmouth City	3,311	22%	76%	49%	29%	210
Northwest Local	1,977	13%	56%	60%	38%	144
Minford Local	1,730	12%	51%	81%	54%	113

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Scioto County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
430	640	544	581

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Scioto County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

48.9% of babies born in Scioto County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 23.8% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.8% had all three.

Profile of Scioto County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,128	1,065
% births to a teen mother	23.1%	19.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	29.3%	24.1%
% births to unmarried parents	29.3%	38.4%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.8%	7.4%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	17.6%	14.5%

Scioto County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	7,944

*871 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	110
Number of additional children expected to enroll	110

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 6,542 Scioto County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,544.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 26% of Scioto County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 19% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $62.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Scioto County public assistance caseloads dropped by 40% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 372 Scioto County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	148	285
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	2,750	1,500
Number of children receiving cash assistance	5,390	3,196
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	59%	52%

174

Seneca County Children

County seat: Tiffin
Population rank: 44
County population: 60,025
Poverty rate: 9.9%
Poverty rank: 49
Child population: 16,708
Child poverty rate: 14.4%
Child poverty rank: 51

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 658 Seneca County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 48% would have passed the test. This means 52%, or 345 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Seneca County Public School Districts: 75% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Tiffin City	3,753	37%	33%	73%	46%	264
Fostoria City	2,679	27%	49%	57%	37%	164
Seneca East Local	1,193	12%	20%	80%	56%	75

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Seneca County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
235	221	175	209

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Seneca County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

39.5% of babies born in Seneca County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 18.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.4% had all three.

Profile of Seneca County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	940	737
% births to a teen mother	13.8%	16.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	20.2%	15.5%
% births to unmarried parents	26.8%	32.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.9%	5.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.2%	9.5%

Seneca County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	2,342

*339 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	518
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	129
Number of additional children expected to enroll	647

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 3,774 Seneca County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,449.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 43% of Seneca County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 30% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $55.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Seneca County public assistance caseloads dropped by 62% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 8 Seneca County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	59	69
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	495	163
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,179	427
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	58%	47%

Shelby County Children

County seat: Sidney
Population rank: 49

County population: 47,415
Poverty rate: 7.2%
Poverty rank: 68

Child population: 13,808
Child poverty rate: 10.5%
Child poverty rank: 68

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 596 Shelby County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 52% would have passed the test. This means 48%, or 288 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Shelby County Public School Districts: 67% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Sidney City	3,998	44%	41%	65%	50%	246
Anna Local	1,075	12%	9%	74%	59%	80
Hardin-Houston Local	941	10%	16%	86%	60%	50

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Shelby County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
240	244	123	150

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Shelby County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.1% of babies born in Shelby County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.5% had all three.

Profile of Shelby County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	716	703
% births to a teen mother	13.8%	12.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	19.0%	18.2%
% births to unmarried parents	20.9%	24.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.2%	6.3%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	15.6%	9.0%

Shelby County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,423

*206 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	522
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	110
Number of additional children expected to enroll	632

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,377 Shelby County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,446.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 13% of Shelby County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, down from 51% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $95.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Shelby County public assistance caseloads dropped by 73% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 3 Shelby County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 53% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	17	22
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	335	56
Number of children receiving cash assistance	741	186
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	49%	34%

Stark County Children

County seat: Canton
Population rank: 7

County population: 373,719
Poverty rate: 10.8%
Poverty rank: 43

Child population: 91,774
Child poverty rate: 17.5%
Child poverty rank: 39

EDUCATION

READING: 73% of the 4,350 Stark County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 51% would have passed the test. This means 49%, or 2,126 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Stark County Public School Districts: 38% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Canton City	13,157	20%	81%	59%	37%	873
Plain Local	6,375	10%	36%	72%	54%	449
Jackson Local	5,177	8%	13%	86%	67%	370

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Stark County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
1,430	1,696	1,277	1,413

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Stark County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

37.8% of babies born in Stark County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.0% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.9% had all three.

Profile of Stark County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	5,371	4,818
% births to a teen mother	14.0%	12.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.3%	16.1%
% births to unmarried parents	27.4%	32.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.9%	7.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.4%	10.4%

Stark County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	17,664

*1,694 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	2,725
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	664
Number of additional children expected to enroll	3,389

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 23,621 Stark County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,429.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 25% of Stark County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 6% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $73.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Stark County public assistance caseloads dropped by 43% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 679 Stark County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 70% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	531	932
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	5,829	3,082
Number of children receiving cash assistance	11,667	6,898
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	53%

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Summit County Children

County seat: Akron
Population rank: 5

County population: 531,650
Poverty rate: 11.3%
Poverty rank: 39

Child population: 128,000
Child poverty rate: 18.8%
Child poverty rank: 30

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 5,879 Summit County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 48% would have passed the test. This means 52%, or 3,079 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Summit County Public School Districts: 52% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Akron City	31,992	38%	80%	48%	28%	2,178
Stow City	6,150	7%	18%	81%	63%	454
Cuyahoga Falls City	5,822	7%	31%	74%	50%	413

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Summit County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
1,582	2,411	2,293	2,837

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Summit County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

36.2% of babies born in Summit County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 15.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.5% had all three.

Profile of Summit County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	7,818	7,226
% births to a teen mother	12.8%	12.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	14.9%	13.2%
% births to unmarried parents	29.3%	33.2%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	7.0%	8.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	15.2%	11.5%

Summit County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	28,611

*1,815 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	4,048
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	881
Number of additional children expected to enroll	4,929

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 31,106 Summit County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,395.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 33% of Summit County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 9% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $40.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Summit County public assistance caseloads dropped by 32% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 2,070 Summit County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 46% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	821	1,562
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	9,941	6,878
Number of children receiving cash assistance	20,623	14,612
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	64%	58%

182

Trumbull County Children

County seat: Warren
Population rank: 11

County population: 226,082
Poverty rate: 11.2%
Poverty rank: 40

Child population: 55,554
Child poverty rate: 18.5%
Child poverty rank: 33

EDUCATION

READING: 72% of the 2,411 Trumbull County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 51% would have passed the test. This means 49%, or 1,184 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Trumbull County Public School Districts: 37% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Warren City	7,296	19%	82%	45%	27%	457
Howland Local	3,476	9%	28%	88%	68%	213
Niles City	3,030	8%	59%	72%	44%	195

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Trumbull County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
1,023	1,424	1,004	1,122

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Trumbull County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

44.3% of babies born in Trumbull County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 17.5% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.2% had all three.

Profile of Trumbull County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	3,074	2,707
% births to a teen mother	13.3%	14.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	18.7%	20.4%
% births to unmarried parents	28.0%	35.5%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	8.2%	8.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.1%	17.7%

Trumbull County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	12,352

*1,212 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,334
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	383
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,717

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 13,458 Trumbull County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,398.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 39% of Trumbull County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, the same as from 38% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $44.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Trumbull County public assistance caseloads dropped by 42% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 464 Trumbull County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 56% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	378	592
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	3,965	2,079
Number of children receiving cash assistance	7,789	4,642
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	65%	57%

184

Tuscarawas County Children

County seat: New Philadelphia
Population rank: 28
County population: 88,209
Poverty rate: 10.6%
Poverty rank: 44
Child population: 22,509
Child poverty rate: 15.7%
Child poverty rank: 45

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 1,047 Tuscarawas County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 58% would have passed the test. This means 42%, or 436 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Tuscarawas County Public School Districts: 56% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998) % passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
New Philadelphia City	3,409	22%	31%	82%	58%	209
Dover City	2,893	18%	26%	80%	52%	204
Claymont City	2,456	16%	56%	70%	48%	155

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Tuscarawas County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
284	330	309	360

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Tuscarawas County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

37.7% of babies born in Tuscarawas County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 14.6% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 5.9% had all three.

Profile of Tuscarawas County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,148	1,196
% births to a teen mother	13.7%	12.7%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	22.4%	20.9%
% births to unmarried parents	20.5%	24.8%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.7%	7.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	18.5%	15.7%

Tuscarawas County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	3,843

*599 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	493
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	164
Number of additional children expected to enroll	657

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,969 Tuscarawas County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,428.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 42% of Tuscarawas County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 34% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $62.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Tuscarawas County public assistance caseloads dropped by 62% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 33 Tuscarawas County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 59% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	90	63
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	838	256
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,612	623
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	63%	50%

Union County Children

County seat: Marysville
Population rank: 63
County population: 38,634
Poverty rate: 6.2%
Poverty rank: 77
Child population: 10,068
Child poverty rate: 8.8%
Child poverty rank: 77

EDUCATION

READING: 68% of the 388 Union County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 46% would have passed the test. This means 54%, or 210 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Union County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998) % passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Marysville Village	3,368	60%	20%	69%	46%	258
North Union Local	1,385	24%	30%	63%	36%	80
Fairbanks Local	904	16%	16%	76%	62%	50

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Union County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
119	131	60	120

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Union County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

24.5% of babies born in Union County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 9.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.0% had all three.

Profile of Union County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	458	529
% births to a teen mother	13.1%	8.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	13.3%	10.0%
% births to unmarried parents	13.8%	18.3%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.6%	6.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	8.1%	8.8%

Union County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,032

*206 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	297
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	76
Number of additional children expected to enroll	373

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,307 Union County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,487.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 34% of Union County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, the same as from 34% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $54.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Union County public assistance caseloads dropped by 53% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 5 Union County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 55% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	17	27
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	200	76
Number of children receiving cash assistance	395	195
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	60%	47%

Van Wert County Children

County seat: Van Wert
Population rank: 74
County population: 30,278
Poverty rate: 6.0%
Poverty rank: 80
Child population: 8,121
Child poverty rate: 8.1%
Child poverty rank: 80

EDUCATION

READING: 77% of the 309 Van Wert County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 55% would have passed the test. This means 45%, or 139 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Van Wert County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Van Wert City	2,517	56%	35%	72%	49%	176
Crestview Local	1,076	24%	10%	87%	68%	92
Lincolnview Local	903	20%	21%	78%	51%	41

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Van Wert County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
54	41	55	60

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Van Wert County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

33.1% of babies born in Van Wert County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 15.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 6.2% had all three.

Profile of Van Wert County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	430	290
% births to a teen mother	11.9%	16.2%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	12.6%	11.8%
% births to unmarried parents	17.0%	26.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.3%	4.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	16.0%	15.6%

Van Wert County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	679

*132 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	324
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	69
Number of additional children expected to enroll	393

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,236 Van Wert County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,377.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 57% of Van Wert County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 51% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Van Wert County public assistance caseloads dropped by 60% from September, 1995, to S mber, 1998. However, more than 2 Van Wert County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works Firs VF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirem s.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	16	9
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	97	23
Number of children receiving cash assistance	217	87
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	74%	78%

Vinton County Children

County seat: McArthur
Population rank: 88
County population: 12,034
Poverty rate: 19.1%
Poverty rank: 7
Child population: 3,253
Child poverty rate: 28.9%
Child poverty rank: 5

EDUCATION

READING: 59% of the 165 Vinton County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 39% would have passed the test. This means 61%, or 101 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Vinton County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Vinton County Local	2,389	100%	68%	59%	39%	165

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Vinton County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
173	76	73	65

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

FAMILY ECONOMICS

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Vinton County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

53.5% of babies born in Vinton County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 24.3% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 10.8% had all three.

Profile of Vinton County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	167	185
% births to a teen mother	19.2%	21.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	28.7%	25.4%
% births to unmarried parents	21.6%	41.6%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	3.6%	7.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	21.5%	15.3%

Vinton County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,340

*201 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	0
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	15
Number of additional children expected to enroll	15

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 951 Vinton County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,585.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 53% of Vinton County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 44% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $46.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Vinton County public assistance caseloads dropped by 46% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 37 Vinton County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 74% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	21	39
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	319	163
Number of children receiving cash assistance	612	338
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	56%	55%

Warren County Children

County seat: Lebanon
Population rank: 17

County population: 140,080
Poverty rate: 5.4%
Poverty rank: 85

Child population: 36,579
Child poverty rate: 8.0%
Child poverty rank: 82

EDUCATION

READING: 80% of the 1,758 Warren County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 59% would have passed the test. This means 41%, or 723 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Warren County Public School Districts: 51% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Mason City	4,341	19%	5%	91%	68%	362
Lebanon City	4,214	18%	22%	73%	54%	289
Kings Local	3,406	15%	17%	84%	60%	281

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Warren County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
330	416	293	293

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Warren County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

21.1% of babies born in Warren County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 8.7% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.3% had all three.

Profile of Warren County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,736	2,036
% births to a teen mother	9.2%	8.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	11.1%	8.7%
% births to unmarried parents	13.9%	16.0%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	3.7%	6.7%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	11.5%	6.9%

Warren County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,438

*388 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,476
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	280
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,756

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,897 Warren County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,401.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 54% of Warren County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 34% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $83.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Warren County public assistance caseloads dropped by 73% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 7 Warren County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 68% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	59	44
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	539	98
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,198	311
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	61%	53%

Washington County Children

County seat: Marietta
Population rank: 40
County population: 63,612
Poverty rate: 12.3%
Poverty rank: 28
Child population: 15,821
Child poverty rate: 18.7%
Child poverty rank: 32

EDUCATION

READING: 71% of the 696 Washington County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 50% would have passed the test. This means 50%, or 345 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Washington County Public School Districts: 73% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Marietta City	3,840	35%	N/A	71%	53%	255
Warren Local	2,769	25%	34%	70%	46%	163
Belpre City	1,494	13%	42%	77%	52%	104

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Washington County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
268	279	238	241

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Washington County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

31.7% of babies born in Washington County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.7% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 4.8% had all three.

Profile of Washington County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	835	710
% births to a teen mother	13.1%	12.8%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	14.6%	13.0%
% births to unmarried parents	20.5%	24.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.0%	6.6%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	12.9%	16.3%

Washington County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	3,440

*428 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	323
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	113
Number of additional children expected to enroll	436

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,370 Washington County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,453.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 45% of Washington County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 41% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $69.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Washington County public assistance caseloads dropped by 77% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 16 Washington County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 62% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	75	28
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	881	96
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,627	357
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	61%	51%

196

Wayne County Children

County seat: Wooster
Population rank: 24
County population: 109,548
Poverty rate: 8.9%
Poverty rank: 56
Child population: 30,333
Child poverty rate: 14.0%
Child poverty rank: 54

EDUCATION

READING: 77% of the 1,416 Wayne County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 56% would have passed the test. This means 44%, or 628 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Wayne County Public School Districts: 47% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Wooster City	4,574	24%	40%	73%	49%	338
Triway Local	2,228	12%	20%	76%	53%	165
Orrville City	2,190	11%	31%	81%	63%	168

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Wayne County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
255	365	296	288

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Wayne County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

43.6% of babies born in Wayne County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 9.6% of new borns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.6% had all three.

Profile of Wayne County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,647	1,558
% births to a teen mother	9.2%	7.6%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	27.1%	29.0%
% births to unmarried parents	14.4%	20.1%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.8%	5.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	24.9%	29.5%

Wayne County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	3,005

*464 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,182
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	248
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,430

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 5,477 Wayne County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,389.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 71% of Wayne County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 37% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Wayne County public assistance caseloads dropped by 50% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 35 Wayne County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 78% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	59	104
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	666	322
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,374	695
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	60%	52%

198

Williams County Children

County seat: Bryan
Population rank: 65

County population: 37,870
Poverty rate: 6.5%
Poverty rank: 76

Child population: 10,393
Child poverty rate: 9.5%
Child poverty rank: 74

EDUCATION

READING: 75% of the 504 Williams County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 53% would have passed the test. This means 47%, or 239 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Williams County Public School Districts: 60% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Bryan City	2,342	32%	18%	76%	56%	177
Montpelier Village	1,235	17%	38%	70%	43%	89
Millcreek-West Unity	852	12%	21%	69%	50%	42

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Williams County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
115	69	78	109

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Williams County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

45.5% of babies born in Williams County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 22.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 8.6% had all three.

Profile of Williams County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	576	429
% births to a teen mother	14.9%	19.1%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	16.1%	19.6%
% births to unmarried parents	19.3%	37.8%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	4.2%	7.5%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	23.5%	23.3%

Williams County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)	
Children receiving Medicaid	1,092

*208 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll	
Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	342
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	83
Number of additional children expected to enroll	425

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 2,068 Williams County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,466.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 46% of Williams County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 36% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $65.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Williams County public assistance caseloads dropped by 58% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 7 Williams County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 76% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	21	32
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	190	74
Number of children receiving cash assistance	420	162
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	48%	45%

Wood County Children

County seat: Bowling Green
Population rank: 22

County population: 119,156
Poverty rate: 7.4%
Poverty rank: 67

Child population: 28,847
Child poverty rate: 9.3%
Child poverty rank: 75

EDUCATION

READING: 77% of the 1,258 Wood County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 56% would have passed the test. This means 44%, or 549 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Largest Wood County Public School Districts: 53% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997):	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment	% of school lunches served free or at reduced price	1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Perrysburg Village	4,183	23%	9%	89%	73%	318
Bowling Green City	3,497	19%	29%	74%	54%	226
Rossford Village	2,164	12%	41%	73%	45%	139

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Wood County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
144	242	209	259

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

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HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Wood County Births: Risk Factors

Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

29.7% of babies born in Wood County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 11.2% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 3.8% had all three.

Profile of Wood County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	1,476	1,305
% births to a teen mother	8.8%	10.0%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	10.2%	10.5%
% births to unmarried parents	16.2%	24.4%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	5.7%	7.0%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	9.7%	8.1%

Wood County Children Insured by Medicaid

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	2,376

*332 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	1,387
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	258
Number of additional children expected to enroll	1,645

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 4,560 Wood County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,373.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 45% of Wood County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 30% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $77.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Wood County public assistance caseloads dropped by 71% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. However, more than 6 Wood County adults may use up their three-year Ohio Works First (OWF) time limit by October, 2000; 64% of OWF parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements.

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	71	48
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	661	124
Number of children receiving cash assistance	1,305	361
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	66%	56%

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Wyandot County Children

County seat:
Upper Sandusky
Population rank: 82

County population: 22,709
Poverty rate: 6.6%
Poverty rank: 75

Child population: 6,060
Child poverty rate: 9.1%
Child poverty rank: 76

EDUCATION

READING: 81% of the 247 Wyandot County fourth graders who took the fourth grade reading proficiency test in March, 1998, passed the test (state average: 68%).

Under the new 1999 proficiency standards, only 59% would have passed the test. This means 41%, or 102 students, would require reading intervention as set forth by Ohio law.

Wyandot County Public School Districts: 100% of County School Enrollment

	Enrollment (1996-1997)		Poverty (1996-1997): % of school lunches served free or at reduced price	4th Grade Reading Proficiency Test Results (March, 1998)		
				% passing the 4th grade reading test		
District	school year enrollment	% of total county enrollment		1998 standard	1999 standard	no. of 4th graders tested
Upper Sandusky Village	1,860	46%	24%	80%	58%	95
Mohawk Local	1,212	30%	17%	85%	67%	85
Carey Village	979	24%	21%	78%	49%	67

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: Opportunities for Reading Readiness

High-quality child care and Head Start programs can help children develop reading readiness skills. Full-time child care can cost more than $100 per week, per child. Ohio's child care assistance program helps low-income parents work and afford child care.

Wyandot County Children Enrolled

Child Care Assistance		Head Start	
1995	1998	1995	1998
29	33	48	51

Who Is Eligible?
Working families earning up to 185% of poverty ($9.84 per hour for a parent and one child) and families participating in Ohio Works First activities.

Who Is Eligible?
Three- and four-year-old children in families earning up to 100% of poverty ($5.32 per hour for a parent and one child).

HEALTH STATUS: Growing and Learning

Wyandot County Births: Risk Factors
Certain risk factors at birth increase the odds of childhood poverty and difficulties in school.

35.4% of babies born in Wyandot County in 1997 began life with at least one of these risk factors: their mother had not finished high school, their mother was a teen, or their parents were not married. 16.4% of newborns had at least two of these disadvantages, and 7.8% had all three.

Profile of Wyandot County Newborns

	1990	1997
Number of Births	327	268
% births to a teen mother	10.7%	15.3%
% births to a mother without a high school diploma	11.3%	14.6%
% births to unmarried parents	16.5%	29.9%
Health Indicators:		
% low-birthweight (5.5 lb. or under)	6.1%	7.1%
% late or no prenatal care (late: after 90 days)	17.4%	9.4%

Wyandot County Children Insured by Medicaid
Medicaid is a health insurance program for low- and moderate-income families, providing health care that children need to be healthy and able to learn.

For a single parent with one child:
150% of poverty = $7.98/hour
200% of poverty = $10.63/hour

Children Currently Enrolled in Medicaid (December, 1998)

Children receiving Medicaid	532

*115 of these children were covered as a result of the 1998 expansion of children's Medicaid to 150% of poverty. Not all eligible children have enrolled.

Additional Children Expected To Enroll

Medicaid expansion to 150% of poverty, expected but not yet enrolled	225
Proposed expansion to 200% of poverty, likely to enroll	51
Number of additional children expected to enroll	276

EARNED INCOME CREDIT AND CHILD SUPPORT: Tools for Self-Sufficient Families

Earned Income Credit. The federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) lifts more children out of poverty than any other public program. The EIC is targeted to low- and moderate-income working families with children. 1,263 Wyandot County families received the tax credit in tax year 1997; the average credit was $1,359.

Child Support. Financial support from both parents can reduce the need for public assistance and improve a child's life. 72% of Wyandot County families owed child support received at least one cash payment in 1997, up from 47% in 1990. The average weekly payment for a child was $58.

OHIO WORKS FIRST: Moving from Welfare to Work

Wyandot County public assistance caseloads dropped by 60% from September, 1995, to September, 1998. Sixty-seven percent of Ohio Works First (OWF) parents meet 20-hour-a-week federal work participation requirements. [OWF time limit data are not applicable to Wyandot County.]

	September, 1995	September, 1998
Number of adults earning paychecks	10	11
Number of adults receiving cash assistance	94	33
Number of children receiving cash assistance	197	62
Percentage of adults with a high school diploma/GED	69%	45%

Fact Sheet Calculations and Notes

Calculations

Rounding Rule: All calculations were made before rounding. When rounding five and above, we rounded up. When rounding four and below, we rounded down.

Percent Change Over Time: Computed by comparing the base year data for the indicator with the current year data. To calculate percent change, the value for the base year was subtracted from the value for the current year and that quantity was divided by the value for the base year. The result was multiplied by 100.

Federal Poverty Guidelines: The 1999 Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines as published in the "Notices" of the *Federal Register* (Vol. 64, No. 52, March 18, 1999, pp. 13482–13484) are used throughout this factbook, unless otherwise noted. However, rule changes or other administrative action by state departments that administer human services programs may be required before Ohio families see the increase in income eligibility for Ohio programs.

Fact Sheet Notes

County Population and Poverty Statistics

County Population: Estimate of total population by county as of July 1, 1997. Population Estimates Program, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC. Internet Release date: September 4, 1998; downloaded December 3, 1998.

Population Rank: Based on county population (see above). Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Poverty Rate: Estimate of percentage of people of all ages living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level by county as of 1995. Bureau of the Census. Table A95-39, "Estimated Number and Percent People of all Ages in Poverty by County: Ohio 1995." Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program. Population as of July 1996 [Online]. http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/hhes/saipe93/gettable.pl [02/25/99].

Poverty Rank: Based on county poverty estimate for people of all ages (see above). Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Child Population: All persons ages 0–17. Estimates of the population of counties by age group as of July 1, 1997. Population Estimates Program, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC. Internet Release date: September 4, 1998; downloaded December 3, 1998. Calculations by CDF-Ohio

Child Poverty: Estimate of percentage of people under age 18 living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level by county as of 1995. Bureau of the Census. Table D95-39, "Estimated Number and Percent People of all Ages in Poverty by County: Ohio 1995." Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program. Population as of July 1996 [Online]. http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/hhes/saipe93/gettable.pl [02/25/99].

Child Poverty Rank: Based on county poverty estimate for people under age 18 (see above). Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Education and Reading

March, 1998, Fourth Grade Proficiency Test Pass Rate, 1998 and 1999 Standards, by County: Total number fourth grade students in the county who passed the test at the 1998 or the 1999 standard, respectively, divided by the total number of fourth grade students in the county who took the test. Ohio Department of Education. *Ohio Fourth Grade Proficiency Test Results, Proficiency Rates by Different Standards, 1998 Test Administration* [Online]. http://ode000.ode.ohio.gov/www/ims/proficiency/4th_prof_mar98_standards.txt [08/17/98]. County totals and county pass rates calculated by CDF-Ohio.

Largest County School Districts and 1996–1997 Enrollment/Percentage of County Enrollment: The three largest districts, or in cases where a county has three or fewer districts within its boundaries, all districts within a county. (Although some Ohio school districts cross county lines, the Ohio Department of Education has assigned each school district to a single county.) Based on the total head count of students being instructed by the district (except non-public students) and students who are residents of the district and are attending an Educational Service Center, Joint Vocational School District, or Post-Secondary Institution as of October 1996. Ohio Department of Education. *School District Report Card Data: Current Year District Enrollment* [Online]. http://ode000.ode.ohio.gov/www/ims/world/rc1037.txt [11/23/98]. Percentage of county enrollment calculated by CDF-Ohio.

1996–1997 Percentage of Lunches Served Free or at Reduced Price: The number of free or reduced-price lunches served to students in a district divided by the total number of lunches served to students in the district. Children living in families earning up to 130% of the federal poverty level ($14,378 for a family of two) are eligible for free lunches through the federal school lunch program. Children living in families earning more than 130% but less than 185% of the federal poverty level ($20,461 for a family of two) are eligible for reduced-price lunches. Ohio Department of Education, Division of Child Nutrition Services School Lunch Data [Online]. ftp://www.ode.ohio.gov/lnches9697.asc [10/19/98]. Percentage calculated by CDF-Ohio.

Percentage of Students Passing the Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency Test, 1998 and 1999 Standards, by District: Total number fourth grade students in the district who passed the test at the 1998 or 1999 standard, respectively, divided by the total number of fourth grade students in the district who took the test in March, 1998. Ohio Department of Education. *Ohio Fourth Grade Proficiency Test Results, Proficiency Rates by Different Standards, 1998 Test Administration* [Online]. http://ode000.ode.ohio.gov/www/ims/proficiency/4th_prof_mar98_standards.txt [08/17/98].

Early Childhood Education

Enrollment in Child Care Assistance, 1995: Includes all children enrolled in child care assistance whose parents met eligibility criteria. Ohio Department of Human Services. "Table 7-S: Child Care, Calendar Year 1995." *Public Assistance Monthly Statistics*, Calendar Year 1995. Supplemented by interviews with departments of human services in the following counties: Adams, Ashland, Auglaize, Brown, Champaign, Clinton, Delaware, Geauga, Holmes, Logan, Madison, Morrow, Paulding, Pike, and Vinton.

Enrollment in Child Care Assistance, 1998: Includes all children enrolled in child care assistance whose parents met eligibility criteria. Ohio Department of Human Services. "Table 7-S: Child Care." *Public Assistance Monthly Statistics*. January–December, 1998. Portage County figures provided by Portage County Department of Human Services. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Enrollment in Head Start, 1995 and 1998: The number preschool children in each county enrolled in Head Start in 1995 and 1998. Ohio Department of Education, unpublished county-by-county reports, 1995 and 1998.

Risk Factors in Ohio Births

Percentage of Babies Born with One, Two, or Three Risk Factors: Department of Health Birth Records, Statistical Analysis Unit, 1997 [CD-ROM]. Concept borrowed from *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1993, p. 13. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Profile of Newborns: Percentage of births to teen mothers (mothers under age 20), to mothers without a high school diploma (mothers with less than 12 years of education), or to unmarried parents; percentage of low-birthweight births (under 2500 grams, or 5.5 lbs.); and percentage of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care (late: after the first 90 days of pregnancy).
Ohio Department of Health, Birth Records, Statistical Analysis Unit. Data for 1997 provided on CD-ROM; 1990 data are from Ohio Department of Health, Statistical Analysis Unit, *Vital Statistics Annual Report*. Columbus: 1990. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Medicaid Expansion

Potential Additional Enrollment: Based on the Ohio Department of Human Services estimate that 50% of eligible children will enroll. The county enrollment estimates for the 200% expansion are based on a statewide total of 20,000 enrolled. County-level estimates for 27,000 total statewide were not available at the time of publication.

Child Support

Percentage of Families Owed Child Support That Received at Least One Payment in 1990 and 1997: IVD cases with collections (Section C, Line 16 of Form 4223) divided by the total number of IVD cases (Section A, Line 4 of Form 4223). Ohio Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support, Form 4223. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Average Weekly Payment to a Child: Number of cases was converted to number of children using a formula which considers the number of divorces and the number of births to unmarried parents, which resulted in a ratio of 1.24773 children per case. Total cases with collections, both ADC and non-ADC (Section C, Line 16 of Form 4223), were averaged for four quarters and then multiplied by 1.24773 to calculate the average number of children in cases with collections. Total IVD collections for 1997 (according to Table 9-S) was divided by the average number of children in cases with collections to calculate annual collections per child. Annual collections per child was divided by 52 to calculate weekly collections per child. Ohio Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support, Form 4223 and Table 9-S. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Earned Income Credit

Number of Families Receiving EIC by County for Tax Year 1997: IRS, Ohio District Office, Research and Analysis Division (DORA). DORA assigns families to counties by zip code, so figures represent an approximation because some zip codes cross county boundaries. The zip code is assigned to a county by where the majority of the residents live.

Average EIC Credit by County for Tax Year 1997: Total dollar amount per county divided by number of families receiving EIC per county. IRS, Ohio DORA. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Fact Sheet Sources

County Population and Poverty Statistics

Bureau of the Census. Population Estimates Program, Population Division. Internet Release date: September 4, 1998. http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/countypop.html [12/3/98].

Bureau of the Census. Table A95-39. "Estimated Number and Percent People of all Ages in Poverty by County: Ohio 1995." Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program. Population as of July 1996 [Online]. http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/hhes/saipe93/gettable.pl [02/25/99].

Education and Reading

Ohio Department of Education. Division of Child Nutrition Services School Lunch Data [Online]. ftp://www.ode.ohio.gov/lnches9697.asc [10/19/98].

Ohio Department of Education. *Ohio Fourth Grade Proficiency Test Results, Proficiency Rates by Different Standards, 1998 Test Administration* [Online]. http://ode000.ode.ohio.gov/www/ims/proficiency/4th_prof_mar98_standards.txt [08/17/98].

Ohio Department of Education. *School District Report Card Data: Current Year District Enrollment* [Online]. http://ode000.ode.ohio.gov/www/ims/world/rc1037.txt [11/23/98].

Early Care and Education

Ohio Department of Education. Unpublished county-by-county reports, 1995 and 1998.

Ohio Department of Human Services. "Table 7-S: Child Care, Calendar Year 1995." *Public Assistance Monthly Statistics*, 1995. Supplemented by interviews with departments of human services in the following counties: Adams, Ashland, Auglaize, Brown, Champaign, Clinton, Delaware, Geauga, Holmes, Logan, Madison, Morrow, Paulding, Pike, and Vinton.

Ohio Department of Human Services. "Table 7-S: Child Care." *Public Assistance Monthly Statistics*, January–December 1998. Portage County figures provided by Portage County Department of Human Services.

Risk Factors in Ohio Births

Most of the data included in this section came from the *Vital Statistics Annual Report 1990*, provided on CD-ROM, for 1997. Ohio Department of Health, Birth Records, Statistical Analysis Unit. Columbus, Ohio.

Medicaid Expansion

Ohio Department of Human Services, Office of Medicaid, Bureau of Medicaid Policy, Health Services Research Section, "Children in Medicaid by County and Race for December 1998".

Ohio Department of Human Services, Office of Medicaid, Bureau of Medicaid Policy, Health Services Research Section, "Caseload Analysis Bulletin, December 1998".

Ohio Department of Health, "Estimates of County Level Distribution of Ohio's Uninsured Children 150%–200% of FPL (Federal Poverty Level)", Spring 1998. Calculations by CDF-Ohio.

Child Support

Collection amounts for 1990, 1997, and 1998 provided by the Ohio Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support, Data Analysis; additional data for 1990 and 1997 from Office of Child Support, Form 4233, Table 9-S.

Ohio Department of Health, Birth Records, Statistical Analysis Unit. *Vital Statistics Annual Report 1996* [CD-ROM]. Columbus: 1997.

Ohio Works First

Unless otherwise noted, the 1995 data is from the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) Demographics Report for September, 1995, prepared by the Ohio Department of Human Services, Office of Fiscal Services, Bureau of Financial Analysis and Reporting, Reports and Statistics Section. The 1998 data is from GRP219RH, OWF Demographics Report for September, 1998, Demographics for OWF Combined Recipients, Ohio Department of Human Services, run date October 1, 1998. Both reports contain detailed data for the state by county, including source data for caseloads (assistance groups, adults, children), number of adults with earnings, and percentage of adults with high school diplomas/GED. The Participation Rates Report, produced by the ODHS Bureau of Performance Management, is the source of the all-family federal work participation rate. The report Adults by Months on OWF Since October 1997 by Counties as of February, 1999, is the source of the estimated number of adults who may hit their time limit in October, 2000. The report is produced by the ODHS Office of Research.

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Windows of Opportunity: Ohio Children and the 1998 Election

Ohio's new governor and legislature have a unique opportunity. They can do more to improve the lives of Ohio children than any previous administration or General Assembly. The transfer of authority for major children's programs to Ohio through block grants and the State Supreme Court's decision in the DeRolph case leave Ohio with an unprecedented opportunity to help working parents and their children.

That's the theme of Children's Defense Fund-Ohio's report, ***Windows of Opportunity: Ohio Children and the 1998 Election.*** In ***Windows***, we have taken a comprehensive but commonsense approach to strengthening Ohio's treatment of maternal and child health, Head Start, child support enforcement, child care, and welfare reform. We also describe an Ohio Earned Income Tax Credit and, for the first time, include education among CDF-Ohio's critical issue areas. The common feature of these seven areas is their effect on large numbers of Ohio children.

Read what the Ohio press had to say about *Windows of Opportunity*. Then visit our web site and download a copy for yourself (http://www.cdfohio.org).

Akron Beacon Journal — "(The) Children's Defense Fund has succeeded in throwing a different light on familiar problems, inviting fresh thinking and substantive debate on the issues...The agenda set out in this document pushes for improvements while recognizing the achievements and strengths in state policies."

The Columbus Dispatch — "The 144,000 pupils entering first grade this fall will be the first ones subject to the (new reading proficiency) standards. If these children — and all those who follow — do not read at grade level when the finish the fourth grade, they will not advance. The Children's Defense Fund is mounting an aggressive campaign to alert people to these changes."

Cincinnati Post — "These type of issues bear on our ability to prepare children to read and write adequately, to get decent jobs when they're older, to get and keep the welfare rolls down. And few, really, involve spending more money. The Children's Defense Fund is right: we've come a long way, and we can do a better job still with what we've already got."

Cleveland Plain Dealer — "**A Creative Attack on Poverty:** The Ohio branch of the Children's Defense Fund has made a number of useful proposals for improving the lives of children of poor families, proposals that are worthy of careful consideration by holders of and aspirants to statewide office."

Dayton Daily News — "The Ohio Children's Defense Fund is proposing that Ohio adopt its own EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit). The money is there; the plan would cost only a small portion of the state's revenue surplus. And it would go exactly where it should: to encourage the struggling, working parent to continue to work — to be among those celebrated on Labor Day — and to make sure the children have what they need. There is no better investment for the community."

Youngstown Vindicator — "Both the Republican and Democratic gubernatorial nominees...have already responded to the defense fund report, pledging to address issues that are important to children. Focusing on these issues is a valuable service that raises the level of political debate in Ohio and holds promise for the future of the state's children."

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kids count